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General Assembly

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Seventy-second session
Agenda item 72 (c)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 19 December 2017

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/72/439/Add.3)*]

72/190. Situation of human rights in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1] international human rights treaties and other relevant international instruments and declarations,

Recalling the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949[2] and Additional Protocol I thereto, of 1977,[3] as applicable, as well as relevant customary international law,

Confirming the primary responsibility of States to promote and protect human rights,

Reaffirming the responsibility of States to respect international law, including the principle that all States shall refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State and from acting in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations, recalling its resolution 2625 (XXV) of 24 October 1970, in which it approved the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, and reaffirming the principles contained therein,

Recalling its resolution 68/262 of 27 March 2014 on the territorial integrity of Ukraine, in which it affirmed its commitment to the sovereignty, political independence, unity and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders, resolution 71/205 of 19 December 2016 on the situation of human rights in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol (Ukraine),

[1] Resolution 217 A (III).
[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970–973.
[3] Ibid., vol. 1125, No. 17512.

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and relevant decisions of international organizations, specialized agencies and bodies within the United Nations system,

Condemning the ongoing temporary occupation of part of the territory of Ukraine – the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol (hereinafter "Crimea") – by the Russian Federation, and reaffirming the non-recognition of its annexation,

Supporting the commitment by Ukraine to adhere to international law in its efforts to put an end to the Russian occupation of Crimea, and welcoming the commitments by Ukraine to protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all its citizens,

Reaffirming the obligation of States to ensure that persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities may exercise fully and effectively all human rights and fundamental freedoms without any discrimination and in full equality before the law,

Welcoming the reports of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the human rights situation in Ukraine, of the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe, and of the human rights assessment mission of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and the High Commissioner on National Minorities of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, in which they stated that violations and abuses of human rights continued to take place in Crimea and pointed to the sharp deterioration of the overall human rights situation,

Welcoming also the report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the temporarily occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol (Ukraine), submitted pursuant to resolution 71/205[4]

Reaffirming its grave concern that the human rights monitoring mission in Ukraine continues to be denied access to Crimea, despite its existing mandate, which covers the entire territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders,

Condemning the imposition and retroactive application of the legal system of the Russian Federation, and its negative impact on the human rights situation in Crimea, the imposition of automatic Russian Federation citizenship on protected persons in Crimea, which is contrary to international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Conventions and customary international law, and the regressive effects on the enjoyment of human rights of those who have rejected that citizenship,

Condemning also the reported serious violations and abuses committed against residents of Crimea, in particular extrajudicial killings, abductions, enforced disappearances, politically motivated prosecutions, discrimination, harassment, intimidation, violence, including sexual violence, arbitrary detentions, torture and ill-treatment, in particular to extract confessions, and psychiatric internment, and their transfer or deportation from Crimea to the Russian Federation, as well as reported abuses of other fundamental freedoms, including the freedoms of expression, religion or belief and association and the right to peaceful assembly,

Reaffirming its serious concern at the decision of the so-called Supreme Court of Crimea of 26 April 2016 and the decision of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation of 29 September 2016 to declare the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People, the self-governing body of the Crimean Tatars, to be an extremist organization and to ban its activities,

[4] See A/72/498.

Condemning the increasing pressure exerted upon religious minority communities, including through frequent police raids, threats against and persecution of those belonging to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the Kyiv Patriarchate, the Protestant Church, mosques and Muslim religious schools, Greek-Catholics, Roman Catholics and Jehovah's Witnesses, and condemning also the baseless prosecution of dozens of peaceful Muslims for allegedly belonging to Islamic organizations,

Taking note of the order of the International Court of Justice of 19 April 2017 on provisional measures in the case concerning the *Application of the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Ukraine v. Russian Federation)*,[5]

Recalling the prohibition under the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 for the occupying Power to compel protected persons to serve in its armed or auxiliary forces, including through pressure or propaganda that is aimed at securing voluntary enlistment,

Underlining the importance of the measures to develop transparent, accessible, non-discriminatory and expeditious procedures and regulations governing access to Crimea for human rights defenders, journalists and lawyers, as well as the possibility to appeal, in accordance with national legislation and in conformity with all applicable international law,

Welcoming the support provided by Ukraine to media outlets and civil society organizations that have fled Crimea, which improves the ability of the media and civil society to work independently and without interference,

Welcoming also the continued efforts of the Secretary-General, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Council of Europe and other international and regional organizations to support Ukraine in promoting, protecting and ensuring human rights, and expressing further concern over the lack of safe and unfettered access by established regional and international human rights monitoring mechanisms and human rights non-governmental organizations to Crimea,

1. *Condemns* violations, abuses, measures and practices of discrimination against the residents of the temporarily occupied Crimea, including Crimean Tatars, as well as Ukrainians and persons belonging to other ethnic and religious groups, by the Russian occupation authorities;

2. *Also condemns* the unlawful imposition of laws, jurisdiction and administration in the occupied Crimea by the Russian Federation, and demands that the Russian Federation respect obligations under international law with regard to respecting the laws in force in Crimea prior to occupation;

3. *Urges* the Russian Federation:

(a) To uphold all of its obligations under applicable international law as an occupying Power;

(b) To fully and immediately comply with the order of the International Court of Justice of 19 April 2017 on provisional measures in the case concerning the *Application of the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Ukraine v. Russian Federation)*;[5]

[5] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 4* (A/72/4), chap. V, sect. A.

(c) To take all measures necessary to bring an immediate end to all violations and abuses against residents of Crimea, in particular reported discriminatory measures and practices, arbitrary detentions, torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, and to revoke all discriminatory legislation;

(d) To respect the laws in force in Ukraine and to repeal laws imposed in Crimea by the Russian Federation that allow for forced evictions and the confiscation of private property in Crimea, in violation of applicable international law;

(e) To immediately release Ukrainian citizens who were unlawfully detained and judged without regard for elementary standards of justice, as well as those transferred or deported across internationally recognized borders from Crimea to the Russian Federation;

(f) To address the issue of impunity and ensure that those found to be responsible for violations and abuses are held accountable before an independent judiciary;

(g) To create and maintain a safe and enabling environment for journalists, human rights defenders and defence lawyers to perform their work independently and without undue interference in Crimea;

(h) To restore enjoyment of the rights of all individuals, without any discrimination based on origin and on religion or belief, and to revoke the decisions that banned cultural and religious institutions, non-governmental organizations, human rights organizations and media outlets, and to restore enjoyment of the rights of individuals belonging to ethnic communities in Crimea, in particular Ukrainians and Crimean Tatars, including to engage in cultural gatherings;

(i) To ensure the availability of education in the Ukrainian and Crimean Tatar languages;

(j) To revoke immediately the decision declaring the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People an extremist organization and banning its activities, repeal the decision banning leaders of the Mejlis from entering Crimea and refrain from maintaining or imposing limitations on the ability of the Crimean Tatar community to conserve its representative institutions;

(k) To end the practice of compelling Crimean residents to serve in the armed or auxiliary forces of the Russian Federation, including through pressure or propaganda;

(l) To cooperate fully and immediately with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Council of Europe on the situation of human rights in Crimea;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to seek ways and means, including through consultations with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and relevant regional organizations, to ensure safe and unfettered access to Crimea by established regional and international human rights monitoring mechanisms, in particular the human rights monitoring mission in Ukraine, to enable them to carry out their mandate;

5. *Urges* the Russian Federation to ensure the proper and unimpeded access of international human rights monitoring missions and human rights non-governmental organizations to Crimea, including all places where persons may be deprived of their liberty, recognizing that the international presence in Crimea is of paramount importance in preventing further deterioration of the situation;

6. *Supports* the efforts of Ukraine to maintain economic, financial, political, social, informational, cultural and other ties with its citizens in the occupied Crimea in order to facilitate their access to democratic processes, economic opportunities and objective information;

7. *Requests* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to prepare, by the end of its seventy-second session, the second dedicated thematic report on the situation of human rights in the temporarily occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine, and to update the Human Rights Council on the issue at its thirty-seventh session, in accordance with the existing mandate and within the existing resources of the human rights monitoring mission in Ukraine, which is currently funded by voluntary contributions;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all necessary steps to ensure the full and effective coordination of all United Nations bodies with regard to the implementation of the present resolution;

9. *Decides* to continue its consideration of the matter at its seventy-third session under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of human rights".

73rd plenary meeting
19 December 2017

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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 19 December 2017

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/72/439/Add.3)*]

72/191. Situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic

The General Assembly,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles of the Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[1] and relevant international human rights treaties, including the International Covenants on Human Rights,[2]

Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic and to the principles of the Charter,

Recalling its resolutions 66/176 of 19 December 2011, 66/253 A of 16 February 2012, 66/253 B of 3 August 2012, 67/183 of 20 December 2012, 67/262 of 15 May 2013, 68/182 of 18 December 2013, 69/189 of 18 December 2014, 70/234 of 23 December 2015, 71/130 of 9 December 2016, 71/203 of 19 December 2016 and 71/248 of 21 December 2016 and Human Rights Council resolutions S-16/1 of 29 April 2011,[3] S-17/1 of 23 August 2011,[3] S-18/1 of 2 December 2011,[4] 19/1 of 1 March 2012,[5] 19/22 of 23 March 2012,[5] S-19/1 of 1 June 2012,[6] 20/22 of 6 July 2012,[7] 21/26 of 28 September 2012,[8] 22/24 of 22 March 2013,[9] 23/1 of 29 May

[1] Resolution 217 A (III).
[2] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.
[3] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/66/53), chap. I.
[4] Ibid., *Supplement No. 53B* and corrigendum (A/66/53/Add.2 and A/66/53/Add.2/Corr.1), chap. II.
[5] Ibid., *Sixty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 53* and corrigendum (A/67/53 and A/67/53/Corr.1), chap. III, sect. A.
[6] Ibid., chap. V.
[7] Ibid., chap. IV, sect. A.
[8] Ibid., *Supplement No. 53A* (A/67/53/Add.1), chap. III.
[9] Ibid., *Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/68/53), chap. IV, sect. A.

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2013,[10] 23/26 of 14 June 2013,[10] 24/22 of 27 September 2013,[11] 25/23 of 28 March 2014,[12] 26/23 of 27 June 2014,[13] 27/16 of 25 September 2014,[14] 28/20 of 27 March 2015,[15] 29/16 of 2 July 2015,[16] 30/10 of 1 October 2015,[17] 31/17 of 23 March 2016,[18] 32/25 of 1 July 2016,[19] 33/23 of 30 September 2016,[20] S-25/1 of 21 October 2016,[21] 34/26 of 24 March 2017,[22] 35/26 of 23 June 2017[23] and 36/20 of 29 September 2017,[24] and Security Council resolutions 2042 (2012) of 14 April 2012, 2043 (2012) of 21 April 2012, 2118 (2013) of 27 September 2013, 2139 (2014) of 22 February 2014, 2165 (2014) of 14 July 2014, 2170 (2014) of 15 August 2014, 2178 (2014) of 24 September 2014, 2191 (2014) of 17 December 2014, 2209 (2015) of 6 March 2015, 2235 (2015) of 7 August 2015, 2258 (2015) of 22 December 2015, 2268 (2016) of 26 February 2016, 2286 (2016) of 3 May 2016, 2314 (2016) of 31 October 2016, 2319 (2016) of 17 November 2016, 2328 (2016) of 19 December 2016, 2332 (2016) of 21 December 2016 and 2336 (2016) of 31 December 2016, and the statements by the President of the Council of 3 August 2011,[25] 2 October 2013[26] and 17 August 2015,[27]

Strongly condemning the grave deterioration of the human rights situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, the indiscriminate killing and deliberate targeting of civilians as such, including those involving the continued indiscriminate use of heavy weapons and aerial bombardments, which has caused more than 400,000 fatalities, including the killing of more than 17,000 children, the continued widespread and systematic gross violations, as well as abuses, of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law, including by the starvation of civilians as a method of warfare and the use of chemical weapons, including chlorine gas, sarin and sulfur mustard, which are prohibited under international humanitarian law, and acts of violence that foment sectarian tensions by the Syrian authorities against the Syrian population,

Noting with deep concern the culture of impunity for serious violations of international law and violations and abuses of human rights law committed during the present conflict, which has provided a fertile ground for further violations and abuses,

Recalling that, amid expressions of popular discontent over restrictions on the enjoyment of civil, political, economic and social rights, civilian protests erupted in Dar'a in March 2011, and noting that the violent oppression of civilian protests by the Syrian authorities, which later escalated to the direct shelling of civilians, fuelled the escalation of armed violence and violent extremist groups, and terrorist groups, including so-called ISIL (also known as Da'esh),

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[10] Ibid., chap. V, sect. A.
[11] Ibid., *Supplement No. 53A* (A/68/53/Add.1), chap. III.
[12] Ibid., *Sixty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/69/53), chap. IV, sect. A.
[13] Ibid., chap. V, sect. A.
[14] Ibid., *Supplement No. 53A* and corrigenda (A/69/53/Add.1, A/69/53/Add.1/Corr.1 and A/69/53/Add.1/Corr.2), chap. IV, sect. A.
[15] Ibid., *Seventieth Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/70/53), chap. II.
[16] Ibid., chap. V, sect. A.
[17] Ibid., *Supplement No. 53A* (A/70/53/Add.1), chap. II.
[18] Ibid., *Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/71/53), chap. II.
[19] Ibid., chap. IV, sect. A.
[20] Ibid., *Supplement No. 53A* and corrigendum (A/71/53/Add.1 and A/71/53/Add.1/Corr.1), chap. II.
[21] Ibid., *Supplement No. 53B* and corrigendum (A/71/53/Add.2 and A/71/53/Add.2/Corr.1), chap. II.
[22] Ibid., *Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/72/53), chap. II.
[23] Ibid., chap. V, sect. A.
[24] Ibid., *Supplement No. 53A* (A/72/53/Add.1), chap. III.
[25] S/PRST/2011/16, see *Resolutions and Decisions of the Security Council, 1 August 2011–31 July 2012* (S/INF/67).
[26] S/PRST/2013/15, see *Resolutions and Decisions of the Security Council, 1 August 2013–31 July 2014* (S/INF/69).
[27] S/PRST/2015/15.

Recalling also the specific obligations under international humanitarian law to respect and protect, in situations of armed conflict, medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and equipment, and hospitals and other medical facilities, and to ensure that the wounded and sick receive, to the fullest extent practicable and with the least possible delay, the medical care and attention required, recalling also that, under international law, attacks intentionally directed against hospitals and places where the sick and wounded are collected, provided that they are not military objectives, as well as attacks intentionally directed against buildings, material, medical units and transport and personnel using the distinctive emblems of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949[28] in conformity with international law are war crimes, and recalling the applicable rules of international humanitarian law relating to the non-punishment of any person for carrying out medical activities compatible with medical ethics,

Expressing grave concern at the disproportionate use of force by the Syrian authorities against civilians, which has caused immense human suffering and fomented the spread of extremism and extremist groups and which demonstrates the failure of the Syrian authorities to protect its population and to implement the relevant resolutions and decisions of United Nations bodies,

Expressing grave concern also at the remaining presence of extremism and violent extremist groups, terrorism and terrorist groups, and strongly condemning all violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law committed in the Syrian Arab Republic by any party to the conflict, in particular so-called ISIL (also known as Da'esh), Al-Nusrah Front, Al-Qaida-affiliated terrorist groups, and militias fighting on behalf of the regime, and other violent extremist groups,

Expressing its deepest concern about the latest findings of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons-United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism that the Syrian Arab Armed Forces were responsible for the use of sarin as a chemical weapon in Khan Shaykhun in April 2017, and that so-called ISIL (also known as Da'esh) used sulfur mustard in Umm Hawsh in September 2016, as well as previous findings of at least three chlorine attacks by the Syrian Arab Republic and one mustard attack by so-called ISIL (also known as Da'esh), reaffirming the principles of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction,[29] and the determination of the States parties to the Convention "for the sake of all mankind, to exclude completely the possibility of the use of chemical weapons, through the implementation of the provisions of this Convention", and noting that the Convention entered into force in the Syrian Arab Republic on 14 October 2013,

Expressing support for the work carried out by the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, and strongly condemning the lack of cooperation by the Syrian authorities with the Commission of Inquiry,

Noting with serious concern the observation of the Commission of Inquiry that, since March 2011, the Syrian authorities have conducted widespread attacks against the civilian population as a matter of policy,

Noting with serious concern also the observation of the Commission of Inquiry that non-State armed groups still resort to the use of force against civilians,

Strongly condemning the reported killing of detainees in Syrian military intelligence facilities and the widespread practice of enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention and the use of sexual and gender-based violence and torture in

[28] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970–973.

[29] Ibid., vol. 1974, No. 33757.

detention centres referred to in the reports of the Commission of Inquiry, including, but not limited to, Branch 215, Branch 227, Branch 235, Branch 251, the Air Force Intelligence Investigation Branch at Mezzeh military airport and Sednaya prison, including the reported practice of mass hangings by the authorities, as well as the reported killing of detainees at military hospitals, including Tishreen and Harasta hospitals,

Recalling the statements made by the Secretary-General, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the special procedures of the Human Rights Council that crimes against humanity and war crimes are likely to have been committed in the Syrian Arab Republic, noting the repeated encouragement by the High Commissioner for the Security Council to refer the situation to the International Criminal Court, and regretting that a draft resolution[30] was not adopted notwithstanding broad support from Member States,

Expressing its deepest concern about the findings of the Commission of Inquiry and also the allegations contained in the evidence presented by "Caesar" in January 2014 regarding the torture and execution of persons incarcerated by the Syrian authorities, and underscoring the need for those allegations and similar evidence to be collected, examined and made available for future accountability efforts,

Expressing concern that the implementation of Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014), 2254 (2015) of 18 December 2015, 2258 (2015), 2268 (2016) and 2286 (2016) remains largely unfulfilled, and noting the urgent need to strengthen efforts to address the humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, including through protection of civilians and full, immediate, unimpeded and sustained humanitarian access,

Recalling its commitment to Security Council resolutions 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014), and 2253 (2015) of 17 December 2015,

Alarmed that more than 5.3 million refugees, including more than 3.8 million women and children, have been forced to flee the Syrian Arab Republic and that 13.6 million people in the Syrian Arab Republic, of whom 6.5 million are internally displaced, require urgent humanitarian assistance, which has resulted in an influx of Syrian refugees into neighbouring countries, other countries in the region and beyond, and alarmed at the risk the situation presents to regional and international stability,

Expressing its profound indignation at the death of more than 17,000 children and the many more injured since the beginning of the peaceful protests in March 2011, and at all grave violations and abuses committed against children in contravention of applicable international law, such as their recruitment and use, killing and maiming, rape, kidnapping and abductions and attacks on schools and hospitals, as well as their arbitrary arrest, detention, torture, ill-treatment and their use as human shields,

Expressing its deep appreciation for the significant efforts that have been made by neighbouring countries and other countries in the region to accommodate Syrians, while acknowledging the increasing financial, socioeconomic and political impact of the presence of large-scale refugee and displaced populations in those countries, notably in Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, Iraq, Egypt and Libya,

Underscoring the critical need to build conditions for the safe and voluntary return of refugees and internally displaced persons to their home areas and the rehabilitation of affected areas, in accordance with international law, including applicable provisions of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees[31] and

[30] S/2014/348.

[31] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 189, No. 2545.

the 1967 Protocol thereto,[32] and taking into account the interests of those countries hosting refugees,

Welcoming the hosting by the Government of Kuwait of the First, Second and Third International Humanitarian Pledging Conferences for Syria, held on 30 January 2013, 15 January 2014 and 31 March 2015, expressing its deep appreciation for the significant pledges of humanitarian assistance that have been made, welcoming the initiative of the co-hosts of the London conference and Brussels conference on supporting the Syrian Arab Republic and the region of 4 February 2016 and 5 April 2017, respectively, and renewing its call upon all members of the international community to respond expeditiously to the Syrian humanitarian appeals and to disburse all previous pledges,

Welcoming also the efforts of the United Nations and the League of Arab States and all diplomatic efforts to achieve a political solution to the Syrian crisis based on the final communiqué of the Action Group for Syria of 30 June 2012,[33] and consistent with Security Council resolution 2254 (2015),

Expressing full support for the efforts of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria, with a view to the protection of the civilian population and the full implementation of the Syrian political process that establishes credible, inclusive and non-sectarian governance, in accordance with the final communiqué and consistent with Security Council resolutions 2254 (2015) and 2258 (2015), urging the Special Envoy to pave the way for the negotiation of a genuine political transition, noting with appreciation the mediation efforts to facilitate the establishment of a ceasefire in the Syrian Arab Republic, as noted by the Security Council in its resolution 2336 (2016), and supporting the efforts to end violence, while expressing deep concern at the violations, demanding that all parties to the ceasefire in the Syrian Arab Republic respect their commitments, and urging all Member States, especially the members of the International Syria Support Group, to use their influence to ensure respect for those commitments and the full implementation of those resolutions, to support efforts to create conditions for a durable and lasting ceasefire, which is essential to achieving a political solution to the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic, and to bring to an end the systematic, widespread and gross violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law,

1. *Strongly condemns* the systematic, widespread and gross violations and abuses of international human rights law and violations of international humanitarian law committed in the Syrian Arab Republic, and the indiscriminate and disproportionate attacks in civilian areas and against civilian infrastructure, in particular attacks on medical facilities and schools, which continue to claim civilian lives, and demands that all parties comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law;

2. *Deplores and condemns in the strongest terms* the continued armed violence by the Syrian authorities against its own people since the beginning of the peaceful protests in 2011, and demands that the Syrian authorities immediately put an end to all attacks on its own people, take all feasible precautions to avoid, and in any event to minimize, incidental loss of civilian life, injury to civilians and damage to civilian objects and meet their responsibilities to protect the Syrian population and immediately implement Security Council resolutions 2254 (2015), 2258 (2015) and 2286 (2016);

[32] Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791.

[33] Security Council resolution 2118 (2013), annex II.

3. *Urges* all Member States, especially the members of the International Syria Support Group, to create conditions for continued negotiations for a political solution to the Syrian conflict, under the auspices of the United Nations, by working towards the nationwide ceasefire, to enable full, immediate and safe humanitarian access and to lead to the release of those arbitrarily detained, consistent with Security Council resolution 2254 (2015), as only a durable and inclusive political solution to the conflict can bring an end to the systematic, widespread and gross violations and abuses of international human rights law and violations of international humanitarian law;

4. *Strongly condemns* any use of any chemical weapons, such as chlorine, sarin and sulfur mustard, by any party as a weapon in the Syrian Arab Republic, and also demands that the Syrian regime and so-called ISIL (also known as Da'esh) immediately desist from any further use of chemical weapons;

5. *Reaffirms its condemnation*, in the strongest possible terms, of the use of chemical weapons by anyone under any circumstances, emphasizing that any use of chemical weapons anywhere, at any time, by anyone, under any circumstances, is unacceptable and is a violation of international law, and expressing its strong conviction that those individuals responsible for the use of chemical weapons must and should be held accountable;

6. *Recalls* the decision of the Security Council that the Syrian Arab Republic shall not use, develop, produce, otherwise acquire, stockpile or retain chemical weapons, or transfer, directly or indirectly, chemical weapons to other States or non-State actors, and, in keeping with the decision of the Council, expresses its strong conviction that those individuals responsible for the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic should be held accountable, and calls for a significant enhancement of the verification measures of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons;

7. *Strongly condemns* the use, on 4 April 2017, of sarin gas by the Syrian Arab Republic in Khan Shaykhun, which led to approximately 100 civilian deaths, including children and relief workers, as confirmed by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons-United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism in its report of 26 October 2017[34] and in the report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic of 8 August 2017,[35] condemns the attack of 30 March 2017 in Al-Lataminah, and demands that the Syrian regime immediately cease the use of chemical weapons and that those individuals responsible for the use of chemical weapons be held accountable;

8. *Recalls with grave concern* the investigation by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons-United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism and the above-mentioned report of the Commission of Inquiry of 8 August 2017 identifying the Syrian air force as being responsible for the 4 April 2017 sarin gas attack on Khan Shaykhun;

9. *Commends* the work conducted in difficult conditions by the fact-finding mission of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons-United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism, their well-established methodology and the crucial role they play in preserving the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction[29] and the chemical non-proliferation regime, welcomes the reports of the Joint Investigative Mechanism, including its reports of 24 August 2016,[36] 21 October

[34] See S/2017/904.
[35] A/HRC/36/55.
[36] S/2016/738/Rev.1.

2016[17] and 26 October 2017, and notes with deep concern its findings that the Armed Forces of the Syrian Arab Republic were responsible for the use of chemical weapons in at least four attacks in the Syrian Arab Republic (Talmenes in 2014, Sarmin in 2015, Qmenas in 2015 and Khan Shaykhun in 2017) and that so-called ISIL (also known as Da'esh) was responsible for two attacks in the Syrian Arab Republic (Marea in 2015 and Umm Hawsh in 2016);

10. *Demands* that the Syrian regime adhere fully to its international obligations, including the requirement that it declare in full its chemical weapons programme, with special emphasis on the need for the Syrian Arab Republic to urgently resolve the verified gaps, inconsistencies and discrepancies pertaining to its declaration in respect of the Convention and to eliminate its chemical weapons programme in its entirety as referred to in the report of the Director General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons dated 22 February 2016[18] indicating that the Technical Secretariat is at present unable to verify fully that the declaration and related submissions of the Syrian Arab Republic are accurate and complete, as required by the Convention and decision EC-M-33/DEC.1 of the Executive Council of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons;[19]

11. *Requests* additional procedures for stringent verification pursuant to article IV, paragraph 8, and article V, paragraph 10, of the Convention, in order to ensure the complete destruction of the Syrian chemical weapons programme and prevent any further use of chemical weapons;

12. *Deplores and condemns in the strongest terms* the continued widespread and systematic gross violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms and all violations of international humanitarian law by the Syrian authorities, the government-affiliated *shabbiha* militias and those who fight on their behalf, including those deliberately targeting civilians or civilian objects, including attacks on schools, hospitals and places of worship, with heavy weapons, aerial bombardments, cluster munitions, ballistic missiles, barrel bombs, chemical or other weapons and other force against civilians, as well as the starvation of the civilian population as a method of warfare, attacks on schools, hospitals and places of worship, massacres, arbitrary executions, extrajudicial killings, the killing and persecution of peaceful protesters, human rights defenders and journalists, individuals and members of communities on the basis of their religion or belief, arbitrary detention, enforced disappearances, violations of women's and children's rights, forced displacement of members of minority groups and of those opposed to the Syrian regime, unlawful interference with access to medical treatment, failure to respect and protect medical personnel, torture, systematic sexual and gender-based violence, including rape in detention, and ill-treatment;

13. *Strongly condemns* all human rights abuses or violations of international humanitarian law, including the killing and persecution of individuals and members of communities on the basis of their religion or belief, by armed extremists, as well as any human rights abuses or violations of international humanitarian law by non-State armed groups, including those designated as terrorist groups by the Security Council;

14. *Deplores and strongly condemns* the terrorist acts and violence committed against civilians by so-called ISIL (also known as Da'esh) and Al-Nusrah Front and their continued gross, systematic and widespread abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law, and reaffirms that terrorism, including

[17] S/2016/888.

[18] EC-81/HP/DG.1.

[19] Security Council resolution 2118 (2013), annex I.

the actions of so-called ISIL (also known as Da'esh), cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality or civilization;

15. *Condemns in the strongest terms* the gross and systematic abuse of women's and children's rights by so-called ISIL (also known as Da'esh), in particular sexual and gender-based violence, including the enslavement and sexual exploitation and abuse of women and girls and the forced recruitment, use and abduction of children;

16. *Condemns* the reported forced displacements of the population in the Syrian Arab Republic, including forced displacement of civilians as a result of local truce agreements, as highlighted by the Commission of Inquiry, and the alarming impact thereof on the demography of the country, which amounts to a strategy of radical demographic change initiated by the Syrian authorities, its allies and other non-State actors, calls upon all parties concerned to cease immediately all activities related to these actions, including any activities that may amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity, notes that impunity for such crimes is unacceptable, reaffirms that those responsible for such breaches of international law must be brought to justice, and supports efforts to collect evidence in view of future legal action;

17. *Reminds* the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic of its obligations under the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,[40] including its obligation to take effective measures to prevent acts of torture in any territory under its jurisdiction, and calls upon all States parties to the Convention to comply with any relevant obligations under the Convention, including with respect to the extradite or prosecute principle contained in article 7 of the Convention;

18. *Strongly condemns* the reported persistent and widespread use of sexual violence, abuse and exploitation, including in government detention centres, including those run by the intelligence agencies, and notes that such acts may constitute violations of international humanitarian law and violations and abuses of international human rights law, and in this regard expresses deep concern at the prevailing climate of impunity for sexual violence crimes;

19. *Also strongly condemns* all violations and abuses committed against children in contravention of applicable international law, such as their recruitment and use, killing and maiming, rape and all other forms of sexual violence, abductions, denial of humanitarian access for children, and attacks on civilian objects, including schools and hospitals, as well as their arbitrary arrest, unlawful detention, torture and ill-treatment and their use as human shields;

20. *Recalls* the statement made by the Chair of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic on 21 September 2015 that the Syrian authorities remain responsible for the majority of the civilian casualties, killing and maiming scores of civilians daily, welcomes the most recent report of the Commission of Inquiry, of 8 August 2017,[35] reiterates its decision to transmit the reports of the Commission of Inquiry to the Security Council, expresses its appreciation to the Commission of Inquiry for its briefings to members of the Security Council, and requests that the Commission of Inquiry continue to brief the General Assembly and members of the Security Council;

21. *Reaffirms* the Syrian authorities' responsibility for enforced disappearances, takes note of the assessment of the Commission of Inquiry that the Syrian authorities' use of enforced disappearances amounts to a crime against humanity, and condemns

[40] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1465, No. 24841.

the targeted disappearances of young men and the exploitation of ceasefires as an opportunity to forcibly recruit and arbitrarily detain them;

22. *Demands* that the Syrian authorities, in accordance with their obligations under relevant provisions of international human rights law, including the right to life and the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, promote non-discriminatory access to health services and respect and protect medical and health personnel from obstruction, threats and physical attacks;

23. *Strongly condemns* all attacks on medical and health personnel, their means of transport and equipment, as well as on hospitals and other medical facilities, deplores the long-term consequences of such attacks for the population and health-care systems of the Syrian Arab Republic, and reaffirms that humanitarian workers and their means of transport, equipment and facilities must be protected in accordance with international humanitarian law;

24. *Expresses its profound concern* about the findings of the Commission of Inquiry in its report on Aleppo,[41] including those suggesting that the offensive against eastern Aleppo in the second half of 2016 involved serious violations and abuses of international human rights law and violations of international humanitarian law by all parties to the conflict, which, according to the Commission of Inquiry, in many cases amounted to war crimes, in particular by the Syrian authorities and their allies, including in the attack on Orum al-Kubra;

25. *Also expresses its profound concern* about the findings contained in the reports of the Commission of Inquiry regarding the tragic and relentless level of indiscriminate attacks on civilians in the Syrian Arab Republic, targeted attacks on protected persons and objects, including medical facilities, personnel and transport and blocked humanitarian convoys, as well as enforced disappearances, summary executions and other violations and abuses;

26. *Demands* that the Syrian authorities cooperate fully with the Commission of Inquiry, including by granting it immediate, full and unfettered access throughout the Syrian Arab Republic;

27. *Also demands* that the Syrian authorities meet their responsibilities to protect the Syrian population;

28. *Strongly condemns* the intervention in the Syrian Arab Republic of all foreign terrorist fighters and those foreign organizations and foreign forces fighting on behalf of the Syrian regime, expresses deep concern that their involvement further exacerbates the deteriorating situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, including the human rights and humanitarian situation, which has a serious negative impact on the region, and further demands that all foreign terrorist fighters, and those who are fighting in support of the Syrian authorities, particularly the Al-Quds Brigades, the Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and militia groups such as Hizbullah, immediately withdraw from the Syrian Arab Republic;

29. *Demands* that all parties immediately put an end to all violations and abuses of international human rights law and violations of international humanitarian law, recalls, in particular, the obligation under international humanitarian law to distinguish between civilians and combatants and the prohibition against indiscriminate and disproportionate attacks and all attacks against civilians and civilian objects, further demands that all parties to the conflict take all appropriate steps to protect civilians, in compliance with international law, including by desisting from attacks directed against civilian objects, such as medical centres, schools and water stations, and refrain from militarizing such facilities, seek to avoid establishing

[41] A/HRC/34/64

military positions in densely populated areas and enable the evacuation of the wounded and all civilians who wish to leave besieged areas, and recalls in this regard that the Syrian authorities bear primary responsibility for protecting its population;

30. *Condemns in the strongest terms* all attacks on protected objects, including indiscriminate and disproportionate attacks and those which may constitute a war crime, taking place in the Syrian Arab Republic, and requests the Commission of Inquiry to continue to investigate all such acts;

31. *Recalls* the statements made by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria, Mr. Staffan de Mistura, indicating that the overwhelming majority of the civilian casualties in the Syrian Arab Republic have been caused by the indiscriminate use of aerial bombardments, demands in this regard that the Syrian authorities immediately cease any attacks on civilians, any disproportionate attacks and any indiscriminate use of weapons in populated areas, and recalls in this regard the obligation to respect international humanitarian law in all circumstances;

32. *Emphasizes* the need for accountability for crimes involving breaches of international law, in particular of international humanitarian law and human rights law, some of which may constitute war crimes or crimes against humanity, committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011, through fair and independent investigations and prosecutions at the domestic or international level;

33. *Welcomes* the decision of the General Assembly to establish, by its resolution 71/248, the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to Assist in the Investigation and Prosecution of Persons Responsible for the Most Serious Crimes under International Law Committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011 and the recent appointment of the Head of the Mechanism, urges all Member States, parties to the conflict and civil society organizations to cooperate fully with the Mechanism, including through the provision of relevant information and documentation, stresses its mandate to closely cooperate with the Commission of Inquiry, and further urges the Mechanism to make a particular effort to ensure consultation of and cooperation with Syrian civil society organizations;

34. *Emphasizes* the need to ensure that all those responsible for violations of international humanitarian law or violations and abuses of human rights law are held to account through appropriate fair and independent domestic or international criminal justice mechanisms, in accordance with the principle of complementarity, stresses the need to pursue practical steps towards this goal, and for that reason encourages the Security Council to take appropriate action to ensure accountability, noting the important role that the International Criminal Court can play in this regard;

35. *Welcomes* the voluntary contributions made by Member States to the funding of the Mechanism, invites all Member States to make additional financial contributions to this end, and calls upon the Secretary-General to include the necessary funding for the Mechanism in his next budget proposal;

36. *Also welcomes* the efforts by States to investigate conduct in the Syrian Arab Republic and to prosecute crimes within their jurisdiction committed in the Syrian Arab Republic, and encourages them to continue doing so and to share relevant information between States in accordance with their national legislation and international law, and encourages other States to consider doing the same;

37. *Deplores* the deteriorating humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, and urges the international community to assume its responsibility for providing urgent financial support to enable the host countries and communities to respond to the growing humanitarian needs of Syrian refugees, while emphasizing the principle of burden-sharing;

38. *Calls upon* all members of the international community, including all donors, to fulfil their previous pledges and continue to provide much-needed support to the United Nations, its specialized agencies and other humanitarian actors to provide humanitarian assistance to the millions of Syrians displaced both internally and in host countries and communities;

39. *Welcomes* the efforts of those countries outside the region that have put in place measures and policies to assist and host Syrian refugees, encourages them to do more, and also encourages other States outside the region to consider implementing similar measures and policies, with a view to providing Syrian refugees with protection and humanitarian assistance;

40. *Strongly condemns* the intentional denial of humanitarian assistance to civilians, from whatever quarter, and in particular the denial of medical assistance and the withdrawal of water and sanitation services to civilian areas, which has recently worsened, stressing that the starvation of civilians as a method of warfare is prohibited under international law, noting especially the primary responsibility of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic in this regard, and deplores the deteriorating humanitarian situation;

41. *Demands* that the Syrian authorities and all other parties to the conflict do not hinder the full, immediate, unimpeded and sustained access of the United Nations and humanitarian actors, including to besieged and hard-to-reach areas, consistent with Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014), 2254 (2015), 2258 (2015) and 2332 (2016);

42. *Strongly condemns* practices including abduction, hostage-taking, arbitrary and incommunicado detention, torture, the murder of innocent civilians and summary executions carried out by non-State armed groups and terrorist groups, most notably so-called ISIL (also known as Da'esh) and Al-Nusrah Front, and underlines that such acts may amount to crimes against humanity;

43. *Deplores* the suffering and torture in detention centres throughout the Syrian Arab Republic, as depicted in the reports of the Commission of Inquiry and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, as well as in the evidence presented by "Caesar" in January 2014, and in the reports of widespread killing of detainees in Syrian military intelligence facilities, in particular in Mezzeh military airport detention facilities, and Military Security Branches 215, 227, 248 and 291, as well as the reported killing of detainees at military hospitals, including Tishreen and Harasta, expresses deep concern that the regime concealed a mass killing of prisoners at the Sednaya penitentiary complex, demands that the Syrian authorities immediately halt the arbitrary detention of individuals, release all those unlawfully detained, including women, children, human rights defenders, humanitarian aid providers, medical personnel and journalists, and ensure that conditions in detention facilities are consistent with international law, and calls upon the Syrian authorities to publish a list of all detention facilities and to provide information on those they have detained to their families;

44. *Calls for* the appropriate international monitoring bodies to be granted access to detainees in government prisons and detention centres, including all military facilities referred to in the reports of the Commission of Inquiry;

45. *Demands* that all parties take all appropriate steps to protect civilians and persons hors de combat, including members of ethnic, religious and confessional communities, and stresses that, in this regard, the primary responsibility to protect its population lies with the Syrian authorities;

46. *Strongly condemns* the damage and destruction of the cultural heritage of the Syrian Arab Republic, bearing in mind the widespread destruction in Palmyra and Aleppo, World Heritage Sites of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, as well as the organized looting and trafficking of cultural property, as outlined by the Security Council in its resolutions 2199 (2015) of 12 February 2015 and 2347 (2017) of 24 March 2017, and affirms that directing unlawful attacks against sites and buildings dedicated to religion, education, art, science or charitable purposes, or against historic monuments, may constitute, under certain circumstances and pursuant to international law, a war crime;

47. *Urges* all parties to the conflict to take all appropriate steps to ensure the safety and security of United Nations and associated personnel, personnel of the specialized agencies and all other personnel engaged in humanitarian relief activities as required by international humanitarian law, without prejudice to their freedom of movement and access, stresses the need not to impede or hinder these efforts, recalls that attacks on humanitarian workers may amount to war crimes, and notes in this regard that the Security Council has reaffirmed that it will take further measures in the event of non-compliance with its resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014), 2234 (2015) and 2258 (2015) by any Syrian party;

48. *Urges* the international community to support the leadership and full and effective participation of women in all efforts aimed at finding a political solution to the Syrian crisis, as envisaged by the Security Council in its resolutions 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000, 2122 (2013) of 18 October 2013 and 2242 (2015) of 13 October 2015;

49. *Reaffirms* that there can only be a political solution to the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic, reiterates its commitment to the national unity and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic, and urges the parties to the conflict to abstain from actions that may contribute to the continuing deterioration of the human rights, security and humanitarian situation, in order to reach a genuine political transition, based on the final communiqué of the Action Group for Syria of 30 June 2012,[33] consistent with Security Council resolutions 2254 (2015) and 2268 (2016), that meets the legitimate aspirations of the Syrian people for a civil, democratic and pluralistic State, with the full and effective participation of women, where there is no room for sectarianism or discrimination on ethnic, religious, linguistic, gender or any other grounds, and where all citizens receive equal protection, regardless of gender, religion or ethnicity, and further demands that all parties work urgently towards the comprehensive implementation of the final communiqué, including through the establishment of an inclusive transitional governing body with full executive powers, which shall be formed on the basis of mutual consent while ensuring the continuity of governmental institutions.

73rd plenary meeting
19 December 2017

United Nations A/RES/72/192

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[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/72/440)*]

72/192. Follow-up to the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 56/119 of 19 December 2001 on the role, function, periodicity and duration of the United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders, in which it stipulated the guidelines in accordance with which, beginning in 2005, the congresses, pursuant to paragraphs 29 and 30 of the statement of principles and programme of action of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme,[1] should be held,

Emphasizing the responsibility assumed by the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice in pursuance of Economic and Social Council resolution 155 C (VII) of 13 August 1948 and General Assembly resolution 415 (V) of 1 December 1950,

Acknowledging that the United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice, as major intergovernmental forums, have influenced national policies and practices and promoted international cooperation in that field by facilitating the exchange of views and experience, mobilizing public opinion and recommending policy options at the national, regional and international levels,

Bearing in mind the consultative nature of the United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice and their role as a forum for promoting the exchange of experience in research, law and policy development and the identification of emerging trends and issues in crime prevention and criminal justice among States, intergovernmental organizations and individual experts representing various professions and disciplines,

[1] Resolution 46/152, annex.

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Recalling its resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields, in which it stressed that all countries should promote policies consistent and coherent with the commitments of the major United Nations conferences and summits, emphasized that the United Nations system had an important responsibility to assist Governments to stay fully engaged in the follow-up to and implementation of agreements and commitments reached at the major United Nations conferences and summits, and invited its intergovernmental bodies to further promote the implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits,

Recalling also its resolution 62/173 of 18 December 2007, in which it endorsed the recommendations made by the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Lessons Learned from United Nations Congresses on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its meeting held in Bangkok from 15 to 18 August 2006,[2]

Recalling further its resolution 70/174 of 17 December 2015, in which it endorsed the Doha Declaration on Integrating Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice into the Wider United Nations Agenda to Address Social and Economic Challenges and to Promote the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels, and Public Participation, adopted by the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, requested the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to review the implementation of the Doha Declaration under the standing item on its agenda entitled "Follow-up to the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice", and welcomed with appreciation the offer of the Government of Japan to act as host to the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, to be held in 2020,

Reaffirming the commitment expressed by Member States in the Doha Declaration to endeavour to mainstream a gender perspective into their criminal justice systems by developing and implementing national strategies and plans to promote the full protection of women and girls from all acts of violence, including gender-related killing of women and girls, and to promote gender-specific measures as an integral part of their policies on crime prevention, criminal justice and the treatment of offenders, including the rehabilitation and reintegration of women offenders into society, taking into consideration the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules),[3]

Recalling its resolution 71/206 of 19 December 2016, in which it requested the Commission to approve at its twenty-sixth session the overall theme, the agenda items and the topics for the workshops of the Fourteenth Congress, recommended that, building on the experience and the success of the Thirteenth Congress, all efforts be made to ensure that the overall theme and the agenda items and workshop topics of the Fourteenth Congress be interrelated and that the agenda items and workshop topics be streamlined and limited in number, and encouraged the holding of side events that were focused on and complemented the agenda items and workshops,

Recalling also its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015,

Encouraged by the success of the Thirteenth Congress as one of the largest and most diverse forums for the exchange of views on and experiences in research, law and policy and programme development between States, intergovernmental and non-

[2] See E/CN.15/2007/6, chap. IV.

[3] Resolution 65/229, annex.

governmental organizations and individual experts representing various professions and disciplines,

Stressing the importance of undertaking all preparatory activities for the Fourteenth Congress in a timely and concerted manner,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,[4]

1. *Reiterates its invitation* to Governments to take into consideration the Doha Declaration on Integrating Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice into the Wider United Nations Agenda to Address Social and Economic Challenges and to Promote the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels, and Public Participation, adopted by the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,[5] when formulating legislation and policy directives and to make every effort, where appropriate, to implement the principles contained therein in conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

2. *Welcomes* the work undertaken by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in ensuring appropriate follow-up to the implementation of the Doha Declaration, and also welcomes in that regard the contribution of the Government of Qatar;

3. *Notes* the progress made thus far in the preparations for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice;

4. *Decides* that the duration of the Fourteenth Congress should not exceed eight days, including pre-Congress consultations;

5. *Also decides* that the main theme of the Fourteenth Congress shall be "Advancing crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law: towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda";

6. *Further decides* that, in accordance with its resolution 56/119, the Fourteenth Congress shall open with a high-level segment, at which States will be invited to be represented at the highest possible level, for example, by Heads of State or Government, Government ministers or attorneys general, and that representatives will be given an opportunity to make statements on the topics of the Congress;

7. *Decides* that, in accordance with its resolution 56/119, the Fourteenth Congress shall adopt a single declaration, to be submitted to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice for its consideration;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to encourage the participation of representatives from relevant entities of the United Nations system in the Fourteenth Congress, bearing in mind the main theme, agenda items and workshop topics of the Congress;

9. *Approves* the following provisional agenda for the Fourteenth Congress, finalized by the Commission at its twenty-sixth session:

1. Opening of the Congress.
2. Organizational matters.
3. Comprehensive strategies for crime prevention towards social and economic development.

[4] E/CN.15/2017/11.

[5] Resolution 70/174, annex.

4. Integrated approaches to challenges facing the criminal justice system

5. Multidimensional approaches by Governments to promoting the rule of law by, inter alia, providing access to justice for all; building effective, accountable, impartial and inclusive institutions; and considering social, educational and other relevant measures, including fostering a culture of lawfulness while respecting cultural identities, in line with the Doha Declaration.

6. International cooperation and technical assistance to prevent and address all forms of crime:

(a) Terrorism in all its forms and manifestations;

(b) New and emerging forms of crime.

7. Adoption of the report of the Congress.

10. *Decides* that the following issues shall be considered in workshops within the framework of the Fourteenth Congress:

(a) Evidence-based crime prevention: statistics, indicators and evaluation in support of successful practices;

(b) Reducing reoffending: identifying risks and developing solutions;

(c) Education and youth engagement as key to making societies resilient to crime;

(d) Current crime trends, recent developments and emerging solutions, in particular new technologies as means for and tools against crime;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, to prepare a discussion guide for the regional preparatory meetings for the Fourteenth Congress and for the Congress itself in a timely manner in order to enable those meetings to be held as early as possible in 2019, and invites Member States to be actively involved in that process;

12. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to facilitate the organization of the regional preparatory meetings and to make available the necessary resources for the participation of the least developed countries in those meetings and in the Fourteenth Congress itself, in accordance with past practice and in consultation with Member States;

13. *Urges* participants in the regional preparatory meetings to examine the substantive items on the agenda and the topics of the workshops of the Fourteenth Congress and to make action-oriented recommendations to serve as a basis for the draft recommendations and conclusions for consideration by the Congress;

14. *Invites* Member States to be represented at the highest possible level at the Fourteenth Congress, for example, by Heads of State or Government, Government ministers or attorneys general, to make statements on the theme and topics of the Congress and to participate actively in the high-level segment;

15. *Calls upon* Member States to play an active role in the Fourteenth Congress by sending legal and policy experts, including practitioners with special training and practical experience in crime prevention and criminal justice;

16. *Emphasizes* the importance of the workshops to be held within the framework of the Fourteenth Congress, and invites Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other relevant entities to provide financial,

organizational and technical support to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network for the preparations for the workshops, including the preparation and circulation of relevant background material;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to facilitate the organization of ancillary meetings of non-governmental and professional organizations participating in the Fourteenth Congress, in accordance with past practice, as well as meetings of professional and geographical interest groups, and to take appropriate measures to encourage the participation of the academic and research community in the Congress, and encourages Member States to actively participate in the above-mentioned meetings, as they provide an opportunity to develop and maintain strong partnerships with the private sector and civil society organizations;

18. *Encourages* Governments to undertake preparations for the Fourteenth Congress at an early stage and by all appropriate means, including, where appropriate, the establishment of national preparatory committees;

19. *Encourages* the relevant United Nations programmes, specialized agencies of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as other professional organizations, to cooperate with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the preparations for the Fourteenth Congress;

20. *Requests* the Commission to accord sufficient time at its twenty-seventh session to reviewing the progress made in the preparations for the Fourteenth Congress, to finalize in a timely manner all outstanding organizational and substantive arrangements and to make its recommendations to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure proper follow-up to the present resolution and to report thereon to the General Assembly through the Commission at its twenty-seventh session.

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[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/72/440)*]

72/193. Promoting the practical application of the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules)

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the long-standing concern of the United Nations for the humanization of criminal justice and the protection of human rights, and emphasizing the fundamental importance of human rights in the daily administration of criminal justice and crime prevention,

Recalling its resolution 65/230 of 21 December 2010, entitled "Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice", in which it requested the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to establish an open-ended intergovernmental expert group to exchange information on best practices, national legislation and existing international law and on the revision of existing United Nations standard minimum rules for the treatment of prisoners so that they reflected recent advances in correctional science and best practices,

Mindful of the extensive consultative process culminating in the recommendations of the Expert Group on the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, a process spanning a period of five years, consisting of technical and expert pre-consultations, meetings in Vienna, Buenos Aires and Cape Town, South Africa, and the active participation and input of Member States from all regions, assisted by representatives of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network and other United Nations entities, including the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, intergovernmental organizations, including the International Committee of the Red Cross, specialized agencies in the United Nations system, including the World Health Organization, and non-governmental organizations and individual experts in the field of correctional science and human rights,

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Recalling its resolution 70/175 of 17 December 2015, entitled "United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules)", in which it adopted the proposed revision of the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners as the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners and approved the recommendation of the Expert Group that the Rules should be known as "the Nelson Mandela Rules", to honour the legacy of the late President of South Africa, Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, who spent 27 years in prison in the course of his struggle for global human rights, equality, democracy and the promotion of a culture of peace,

Recalling also that in its resolution 70/175 it decided to extend the scope of Nelson Mandela International Day, observed each year on 18 July,[1] to be also utilized in order to promote humane conditions of imprisonment, to raise awareness about prisoners being a continuous part of society and to value the work of prison staff as a social service of particular importance, and to that end invited Member States, regional organizations and organizations of the United Nations system to celebrate the occasion in an appropriate manner,

Recalling further that in the same resolution it invited the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to consider, at its upcoming sessions, reconvening the Expert Group for the purpose of identifying the lessons learned, the means to continue to exchange good practices and the challenges faced in the practical application of the Nelson Mandela Rules,

Recalling its resolution 71/188 of 19 December 2016, entitled "Human rights in the administration of justice", in which it welcomed the adoption of the Nelson Mandela Rules, recognized the importance of the principle that, except for those lawful limitations demonstrably necessitated by the fact of incarceration, persons deprived of their liberty shall retain their non-derogable human rights and all other human rights and fundamental freedoms, and recalled that the social rehabilitation and reintegration of persons deprived of their liberty shall be among the essential aims of the criminal justice system, ensuring, as far as possible, that offenders are able to lead a law-abiding and self-supporting life upon their return to society,

Reaffirming its resolution 71/209 of 19 December 2016, entitled "Strengthening the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity", in which it called upon Member States to implement, where appropriate, the Nelson Mandela Rules, bearing in mind their spirit and purpose, and encouraged Member States to take relevant measures, as appropriate to their national contexts, to ensure the diffusion, use and application of the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice, including through the consideration and, where they deemed it necessary, dissemination of manuals and handbooks developed and published by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,

Recalling other United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice related to the treatment of prisoners and to alternatives to imprisonment, in particular the procedures for the effective implementation of the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners,[2] the Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment,[3] the Basic Principles for the Treatment of Prisoners,[4] the United Nations Standard

[1] See resolution 64/13.

[2] Economic and Social Council resolution 1984/47 annex.

[3] Resolution 43/173, annex.

[4] Resolution 45/111, annex.

Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (the Tokyo Rules),[5] the Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime[6] and the basic principles on the use of restorative justice programmes in criminal matters,[7]

Bearing in mind the need for vigilance with regard to the specific situation of children, juveniles and women in the administration of justice, in particular while they are deprived of their liberty, as called for in the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (the Beijing Rules),[8] the United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (the Riyadh Guidelines),[9] the United Nations Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty[10] and the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules),[11]

Mindful of the fact that the Doha Declaration on Integrating Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice into the Wider United Nations Agenda to Address Social and Economic Challenges and to Promote the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels, and Public Participation, adopted at the conclusion of the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Qatar in April 2015,[12] points to the need to implement and enhance policies for prison inmates that focus on education, work, medical care, rehabilitation, social reintegration and the prevention of recidivism, and to consider the development and strengthening of policies to support the families of inmates, as well as to promote and encourage the use of alternatives to imprisonment, where appropriate, and to review or reform restorative justice and other processes in support of successful reintegration,

Concerned about the negative impact of overcrowding on the enjoyment of human rights by prisoners,

Noting the continuing need to enhance the sharing of information and experiences and technical assistance to improve, where needed, prison conditions and to address different serious challenges such as overcrowding, taking into consideration relevant international standards and norms,

Underscoring that, notwithstanding their non-legally binding nature, the Nelson Mandela Rules represent, as a whole, the minimum conditions which are accepted as suitable by the United Nations and set out what is generally accepted as good principles and practices in the treatment of prisoners and in prison management,

Acknowledging the variety of legal frameworks of Member States, and in that regard recognizing that Member States may adapt the application of the Nelson Mandela Rules in accordance with their domestic legal frameworks, as appropriate, bearing in mind the spirit and purposes of the Rules,

Noting with concern the persistence, in various parts of the world, of challenges to the management of prisons consistent with international standards and norms, such as overcrowding, poor prison conditions that may result in serious medical consequences and the presence of prisoners assessed to be of high risk,

1. *Encourages* Member States to endeavour to improve conditions of imprisonment and to promote the practical application of the United Nations Standard

[5] Resolution 45/110, annex.
[6] Economic and Social Council resolution 2002/13, annex.
[7] Economic and Social Council resolution 2002/12, annex.
[8] Resolution 40/33, annex.
[9] Resolution 45/112, annex.
[10] Resolution 45/113, annex.
[11] Resolution 65/229, annex.
[12] Resolution 70/174, annex.

Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules)[13] as the universally acknowledged and updated minimum standards for the treatment of prisoners, to use the Rules as a guide in the development of prison laws, policies and practices, to continue exchanging good practices and identifying challenges faced in the practical application of the Rules and to share their experiences in dealing with those challenges;

2. *Also encourages* Member States to address overcrowding in detention facilities by taking effective measures, including through enhancing the availability and use of alternatives to pretrial detention and custodial sentences, bearing in mind the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (the Tokyo Rules)[5] and the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules),[11] access to legal aid, mechanisms for crime prevention, early release and rehabilitation programmes and the efficiency as well as the capacity of the criminal justice system;

3. *Welcomes* the formation of the Vienna-based Group of Friends of the Nelson Mandela Rules as an informal and open-ended group of like-minded Member States, and also welcomes the first meeting of the Group, held during the twenty-sixth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, at which the Group decided that the following would be its main purposes:

(a) Maintaining the momentum generated by the adoption of the Nelson Mandela Rules for prison management and reform by raising awareness of the Rules as well as by promoting their practical application worldwide;

(b) Convening expert consultations on priority aspects relating to prison management during future sessions of the Commission and facilitating common positions, as appropriate;

(c) Serving as the main support vehicle for the technical assistance delivered by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime under its Global Programme on Addressing Prison Challenges;

(d) Facilitating the widest possible involvement of Member States in the yearly celebrations of Nelson Mandela International Day, on 18 July, with the additional objective of promoting humane conditions of imprisonment;

4. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Government of South Africa for having initiated and for assuming the chair of the Group of Friends of the Nelson Mandela Rules, thereby following up on the leadership it provided throughout the review process for the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, including by hosting the last meeting of the Expert Group on the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners in Cape Town, South Africa, from 2 to 5 March 2015;

5. *Invites* all Member States to consider actively participating in the Group of Friends of the Nelson Mandela Rules in order to create an informal forum for the exchange of views, experiences and challenges with regard to the practical application of the Rules;

6. *Recognizes* that well-managed prisons and the treatment of prisoners consistent with international standards and norms for crime prevention and criminal justice can also contribute to the implementation by Member States of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[14] and the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 16, Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and

[13] Resolution 70/175, annex.

[14] Resolution 70/1.

inclusive institutions at all levels, and Goal 5, Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, in particular;

7. *Welcomes with appreciation* the Global Programme on Addressing Prison Challenges, launched by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and its technical assistance and advisory services, provided to Member States upon request, which focus on the three areas of rationalizing the resort to imprisonment, improving prison conditions and strengthening prison management, and supporting the social reintegration of prisoners upon their release;

8. *Reiterates* that good prison management practices, informed by the international standards and norms for crime prevention and criminal justice, should form the basis for the treatment of all categories of prisoners, and highlights in this regard the value of the Nelson Mandela Rules in addressing the specific challenges of high-risk prisoners;

9. *Welcomes* the technical assistance work carried out by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in close cooperation with national experts from Member States and with financial support provided by the Government of Germany, on the Nelson Mandela Rules, including the guidance material produced to assist corrections authorities with their application, including on the management of high-risk prisoners;

10. *Also welcomes* the financial support provided by the Government of Qatar for the purpose of supporting the implementation of the Doha Declaration on Integrating Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice into the Wider United Nations Agenda to Address Social and Economic Challenges and to Promote the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels, and Public Participation[12] in the form of a technical assistance programme implemented by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, which includes a dedicated component on fostering the rehabilitation and social reintegration of prisoners;

11. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue ensuring broad dissemination of the Nelson Mandela Rules, to design guidance material and to provide technical assistance and advisory services to Member States, upon request, in the field of penal reform, in order to develop or strengthen penitentiary legislation, procedures, policies and practices consistent with the Rules;

12. *Also requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its mandate, to facilitate the exchange of information and experiences in relation to the practical implementation of the Nelson Mandela Rules among Member States;

13. *Encourages* Member States to consider allocating adequate human and financial resources to assist in the improvement of prison conditions, including through upgrading and modernizing prison facilities, and the application of the Nelson Mandela Rules, and invites Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the purposes described above, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations;

14. *Acknowledges* the important role of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council in contributing to the dissemination, promotion and practical application of the Nelson Mandela Rules, and invites them to pursue cooperation and joint action.

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[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/72/440)*]

72/194. Technical assistance for implementing the international conventions and protocols related to counter-terrorism

The General Assembly,

Recalling all relevant United Nations resolutions on technical and legislative assistance in countering terrorism, especially the most recent ones,[1]

Reaffirming its resolution 70/291 of 1 July 2016, entitled "The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy Review",

Recalling that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to peaceful and secure societies and that all acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of their motivations, whenever and by whomsoever committed and that they are to be unequivocally condemned, especially when they indiscriminately target or injure civilians,

Stressing again the need to strengthen international, regional and subregional cooperation to effectively prevent and combat terrorism, in particular by enhancing the national capacity of States through the provision of technical assistance, based on the needs and priorities identified by requesting States,

Emphasizing the need to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism while fully respecting the fundamental principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and international law,

Recalling the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace[2] and the Global Agenda for Dialogue among Civilizations,[3]

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[1] General Assembly resolutions 70/148, 70/177, 70/291, 71/151 and 71/209; and Security Council resolutions 2133 (2014), 2178 (2014), 2195 (2014), 2199 (2015), 2253 (2015), 2309 (2016), 2322 (2016), 2341 (2017), 2347 (2017) and 2349 (2017).

[2] Resolutions 53/243 A and B.

[3] Resolution 56/6.

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Recalling in particular its resolution 70/177 of 17 December 2015, in which it, inter alia, called upon the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to provide technical assistance, upon request, for building the capacity of Member States to become party to and implement the international conventions and protocols related to counter-terrorism, including through targeted programmes and the training of relevant criminal justice and law enforcement officials, the development of and participation in relevant initiatives and the elaboration of technical tools and publications, in consultation with Member States,

Reiterating all aspects of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy[4] and the need for States to continue to implement the Strategy, as reaffirmed in its resolution 70/291,

Recognizing the importance of countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism, and in that regard stressing the importance of an integrated and balanced implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy across its four pillars, reaffirming the principal responsibility of Member States to implement the Strategy,

Noting, in that regard, the need to continue to counter terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including any existing, growing or potential links, in some cases, between transnational organized crime, illicit drug-related activities, money-laundering and the financing of terrorism, in order to enhance criminal justice responses to those crimes,

Noting with appreciation the ongoing work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to support Member States in their efforts to prevent and counter terrorism in all its forms and manifestations in the crime prevention and criminal justice context, reiterating that that work needs to be done in close coordination with Member States,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on technical assistance in implementing the international conventions and protocols related to terrorism,[5]

Reaffirming that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group,

Recognizing the ongoing efforts of the Secretary-General to improve the coordination of the work of United Nations entities on counter-terrorism and to ensure a balanced implementation of all four pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy,

1. *Urges* Member States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the existing international conventions and protocols related to counter-terrorism, and requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its mandate, in close coordination with the relevant entities of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, to continue to provide technical assistance to Member States for the ratification and legislative incorporation of those international legal instruments;

2. *Encourages* Member States to continue to promote, at the national level, effective coordination among law enforcement and other relevant entities and authorities responsible for preventing and countering terrorism, and requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, upon request and within its mandate, to continue to provide technical assistance in that regard;

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[4] Resolution 60/288.

[5] E/CN.15/2017/5.

3. *Urges* Member States to continue to strengthen international coordination and cooperation in order to prevent and counter terrorism in all its forms and manifestations in accordance with international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, to effectively implement relevant international instruments and United Nations resolutions, to consider entering, when appropriate, into treaties on extradition and mutual legal assistance, and to ensure adequate training of all relevant personnel on executing international cooperation activities, and calls upon all States to consider providing the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime with the contact details of and other relevant information about designated authorities for its repository database;

4. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its mandate, to provide technical assistance, upon request, to Member States to those ends, including by continuing and enhancing its assistance related to international legal and judicial cooperation pertaining to countering terrorism, including in criminal matters related to foreign terrorist fighters, and by fostering the development of strong and effective central authorities for international cooperation in criminal matters;

5. *Stresses* the importance of the development and maintenance of effective, fair, humane, transparent and accountable criminal justice systems in accordance with applicable international law, as a fundamental basis of any strategy to counter terrorism, and requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, whenever appropriate, to take into account in its technical assistance to counter terrorism the elements necessary for building national capacity in order to strengthen criminal justice systems and the rule of law;

6. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its mandate in the area of countering and preventing terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, to continue to develop specialized legal knowledge and to continue to strengthen the provision of technical assistance to Member States, upon request, on effective measures for criminal justice responses addressing the prevention of terrorism in compliance with all their obligations under international law, in particular human rights, refugee and humanitarian law, in full conformity with human rights and fundamental freedoms;

7. *Calls upon* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to further enhance technical assistance, upon request, for building the capacity of Member States to become party to and implement the international conventions and protocols related to counter-terrorism, including through targeted programmes and the training of relevant criminal justice and law enforcement officials, upon request, to develop their capacity to effectively respond to, prevent, investigate and prosecute terrorist acts, the development of and participation in relevant initiatives and the development of technical tools and publications, within its mandate and in close consultation with Member States;

8. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its mandate and in collaboration with, when appropriate, the Counter-Terrorism Committee and its Executive Directorate and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, to continue to provide assistance to requesting Member States in addressing the threat of foreign terrorist fighters, including returning foreign terrorist fighters, through its capacity-building activities, with regard to enhancing their cooperation, developing relevant measures and developing appropriate criminal justice responses, to prevent the financing, mobilization, travel, recruitment, organization and radicalization of foreign terrorist fighters, to ensure that any person who participates in the financing, planning, preparation or perpetration of terrorist acts or in supporting terrorist acts is brought to justice, and to develop and implement appropriate criminal justice

responses, including prosecution and effective reintegration strategies for returning foreign terrorist fighters, in compliance with relevant obligations under international and domestic law;

9. *Encourages* Member States to further identify, analyse and counter any existing, growing or potential links, in some cases, between transnational organized crime, illicit drug-related activities, money-laundering and the financing of terrorism, in order to enhance criminal justice responses to those crimes, and calls upon the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its relevant mandates, to support, upon request, the efforts of Member States in that regard;

10. *Calls upon* Member States to strengthen border management to effectively prevent the movements of foreign terrorist fighters and terrorist groups, and requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to provide technical assistance to that end to requesting States;

11. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its mandate, to continue to support requesting Member States in the implementation of capacity-building programmes to strengthen crime prevention and criminal justice responses to the destruction of and trafficking in cultural heritage by terrorists;

12. *Also requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its mandate, to continue to develop its specialized legal knowledge in close consultation with Member States in order to continue to provide assistance to requesting Member States so as to prevent and counter the use of information and communications technology, in particular the Internet and other media, to plan, incite, recruit for, fund or commit terrorist attacks, and to support those Member States in effectively criminalizing, investigating and prosecuting such acts in accordance with domestic law and applicable international law on due process while fully respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to privacy and the freedom of expression, and to encourage the use of the Internet as a tool for countering the spread of terrorism;

13. *Further requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to provide, upon request, technical assistance for building the capacity of Member States in the development and implementation of programmes of assistance and support for victims of terrorism in accordance with relevant national legislation, with emphasis on the special needs of women and children;

14. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, through its Global Programme on Violence against Children, to continue to support requesting Member States, in accordance with relevant national legislation, in ensuring that children alleged to have, accused of having, or recognized as having infringed the law, particularly those who are deprived of their liberty, as well as child victims and witnesses of crime, are treated in a manner that observes their rights and respects their dignity in accordance with applicable international law, in particular the obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[6] and that relevant measures are taken to effectively reintegrate children formerly associated with armed groups and terrorist groups;

15. *Encourages* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to assist Member States, upon request, in mainstreaming gender perspectives into criminal justice responses to terrorism, in full compliance with human rights law, in order to prevent the recruitment of women and girls as terrorists and promote the full protection of women and girls from any form of exploitation or violence perpetrated by terrorists;

16. *Urges* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in coordination with the Counter-Terrorism Committee and its Executive Directorate and the Counter-

[6] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

Terrorism Implementation Task Force, to continue to strengthen its cooperation with international organizations and relevant entities of the United Nations system, as well as with international, regional and subregional organizations and arrangements, in the delivery of technical assistance, whenever appropriate, and notes the ongoing joint initiatives developed by the Office with the Committee and its Executive Directorate and the entities of the Task Force;

17. *Expresses its appreciation* to Member States that have supported the technical assistance activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, including through financial contributions, and invites Member States to consider making additional sustainable voluntary financial contributions and providing in-kind support, in particular in view of the need for enhanced and effective delivery of technical assistance to assist Member States with the implementation of the relevant provisions of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy;[4]

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime with sufficient resources to carry out activities, within its mandate, to assist Member States, upon request, in the implementation of the relevant elements of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy;

19. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

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[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/72/440)*]

72/195. Improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons

The General Assembly,

Reiterating its strong condemnation of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, which constitutes an offence and a serious threat to human dignity and physical integrity, human rights and sustainable development,

Reiterating its concern that, despite sustained measures taken at the international, regional and national levels, trafficking in persons remains one of the grave challenges facing the international community, which also impairs the enjoyment of human rights and needs a more concerted collective and comprehensive international response,

Bearing in mind that all States have an obligation to exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate and punish perpetrators of trafficking in persons and to protect and assist victims, and that not doing so violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the victims,

Recalling the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[1] which reaffirms the commitment by Member States to take immediate and effective measures to, inter alia, eradicate forced labour and end modern slavery and human trafficking,

Recalling also the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[2] the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[3] which provided the definition of the crime of trafficking in persons, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of

[1] Resolution 70/1.
[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2225, No. 39574.
[3] Ibid., vol. 2237, No. 39574.

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the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography[4] and the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery,[5]

Taking note of the adoption of the Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29), of the International Labour Organization, which recognizes that trafficking in persons for the purposes of forced or compulsory labour is the subject of growing international concern,

Recalling the adoption of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/293 of 30 July 2010, and underlining the importance of its full implementation,

Reaffirming that the Global Plan of Action was developed:

(a) To promote universal ratification of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, as well as other relevant international instruments that address trafficking in persons, and to reinforce the implementation of existing instruments against trafficking in persons,

(b) To help Member States to reinforce their political commitments and legal obligations to prevent and combat trafficking in persons,

(c) To promote comprehensive, coordinated and consistent responses at the national, regional and international levels to counter trafficking in persons,

(d) To promote a human rights-based, gender- and age-sensitive approach in addressing all factors that make people vulnerable to trafficking in persons and strengthening the criminal justice response, which are necessary to prevent trafficking in persons, protect its victims and prosecute its perpetrators,

(e) To raise awareness within the United Nations system and also among States and other stakeholders, such as the private sector, civil society and the international and national mass media, and the public at large,

(f) To foster cooperation and coordination among all relevant stakeholders, including Member States, international organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector, and within various entities of the United Nations system, taking into account existing best practices and lessons learned,

Recalling its resolutions 61/180 of 20 December 2006, 64/178 of 18 December 2009, 67/190 of 20 December 2012, 68/192 of 18 December 2013 and 70/179 of 17 December 2015 on improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons and its other relevant resolutions on trafficking in persons,[6]

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 2017/18 of 6 July 2017 on the implementation of the Global Plan of Action and previous Council resolutions on trafficking in persons,

Recalling further Human Rights Council resolution 32/3 of 30 June 2016, entitled "Trafficking in persons, especially women and children: protecting victims of trafficking and persons at risk of trafficking, especially women and children in conflict and post-conflict situations",[7] and other relevant resolutions of the Council on trafficking in persons,

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[4] Ibid., vol. 2171, No. 27531.

[5] Ibid., vol. 266, No. 3822.

[6] Resolutions 55/67, 58/137, 59/166, 61/144, 63/156 and 63/194.

[7] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/71/53), chap. V, sect. A.

Welcoming the adoption of the political declaration on the implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons at the high-level meeting of the General Assembly held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 27 and 28 September 2017,[8]

Taking note of the reference to preventing and countering trafficking in persons and the victim-oriented approach in the context of addressing trafficking in persons in the Doha Declaration on Integrating Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice into the Wider United Nations Agenda to Address Social and Economic Challenges and to Promote the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels, and Public Participation, adopted by the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Doha from 12 to 19 April 2015,[9]

Welcoming the adoption of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants[10] at the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants, held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 19 September 2016, in which States declared that they would, with full respect for their obligations under international law, vigorously combat human trafficking and migrant smuggling with a view to their elimination, including through targeted measures to identify victims of human trafficking or those at risk of trafficking, provide support for the victims of human trafficking and work to prevent human trafficking among those affected by displacement,

Recognizing the important role of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons, comprising the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the International Civil Aviation Organization, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the International Labour Organization, the International Organization for Migration, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, the Office of the United Nations High Commisssioner for Human Rights, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, the United Nations Population Fund, the World Bank and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat, in fostering coordination and cooperation in the global fight against trafficking in persons, within their existing mandates,

Recognizing also that the Inter-Agency Coordination Group, within its mandate, contributes to the implementation of the Global Plan of Action, taking note with appreciation of the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime as coordinator of the Coordination Group, as well as the activities of the members of the Coordination Group acting on a rotational basis as Chair of the working group of the Coordination Group, and encouraging the more robust participation of all members of the Coordination Group,

Recalling that the Inter-Agency Coordination Group was established to foster cooperation among relevant United Nations agencies and other international organizations involved in combating human trafficking in countries around the world using, to the extent possible, mechanisms already in place at the regional and national levels, and to share information, experiences and good practices relating to the activities of the partner agencies to counter trafficking with Governments, international and regional organizations and other relevant bodies,

[8] Resolution 72/1.
[9] Resolution 70/174, annex.
[10] Resolution 71/1.

Emphasizing the central role of the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the global fight against trafficking in persons, particularly in providing technical assistance to Member States, upon their request, to implement the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, by making use of existing capacity-building tools, lessons learned from Member States and expertise available in other international organizations,

Recognizing the need to continue to foster a global partnership against trafficking in persons among all stakeholders and the need to continue to work towards an enhanced comprehensive and coordinated approach to prevent and combat trafficking and to protect and assist victims of trafficking in persons through the appropriate national, regional and international mechanisms,

Recognizing also the importance of bilateral, subregional, regional and international cooperation mechanisms and initiatives, including information exchanges on good practices, of Governments and of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to address the problem of trafficking in persons, especially women and children,

Stressing the need to take appropriate measures to ensure access to justice and protections for victims in criminal justice processes, including measures to ensure that identified victims of trafficking in persons are not penalized for having been trafficked and that they do not suffer from victimization as a result of actions taken by government authorities, communities and families,

Recognizing that broad international cooperation between Member States and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations is essential for effectively countering the threat of trafficking in persons and other contemporary forms of slavery,

Recognizing also that victims of trafficking are often subject to multiple forms of discrimination and violence, including on the grounds of gender, age, disability, ethnicity, culture and religion, as well as national or social origin, and that these forms of discrimination may themselves fuel trafficking in persons, and that women and children without nationality or without birth registration are particularly vulnerable to trafficking in persons,

Recognizing further the potential of the Internet and other information and communications technologies to prevent and combat trafficking in persons and to assist victims, stressing the need for increased law enforcement cooperation in this regard to address the new challenges generated by the rapid development of the Internet and other information and communications technologies, and expressing concern that human traffickers have used the Internet and other technologies to facilitate trafficking in persons, including for the purpose of exploiting women and children, and to recruit and control victims,

Stressing the need to promote and protect the rights of victims of trafficking in persons and to reintegrate victims into the community, including by taking into account, where appropriate, the Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Human Trafficking[11] and the commentary thereon developed by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, as well as the Guidelines on the Protection of Child Victims of Trafficking developed by the United Nations Children's Fund,

Welcoming the efforts of Member States, United Nations agencies, international organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector to

[11] E/2002/68/Add.1.

address the problem of trafficking in persons, including women and children as the most vulnerable group, and emphasizing the urgent need for them to further enhance their efforts and cooperation to build the evidence base, including by sharing their knowledge and best practices as widely as possible,

Affirming that capacity-building is a very important component in combating trafficking in persons, and in this regard stressing the need to intensify international cooperation to combat trafficking in persons, as well as technical assistance for countries aimed at strengthening their ability to prevent all forms of trafficking, including supporting their development programmes,

Taking note of the Khartoum process and its Declaration adopted in Khartoum on 16 October 2014 during the Regional Ministerial Conference on Human Trafficking and Smuggling in the Horn of Africa, coordinated by the African Union, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Organization for Migration, which aimed to strengthen national, regional and international cooperation and build capacities in the African countries to combat trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling,

Taking note also of the Second Work Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons in the Western Hemisphere 2015–2018, adopted by States members of the Organization of American States at the Fourth Meeting of National Authorities on Trafficking in Persons, held on 4 and 5 December 2014 in Brasilia,

Recognizing that the Global Plan of Action and the establishment of the United Nations voluntary trust fund for victims of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, established in compliance with the Global Plan of Action, aim at raising awareness of the situation of victims of human trafficking and at providing them with humanitarian, legal and financial aid through established channels of assistance, such as governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations,

Reaffirming the importance of humanitarian, legal and financial aid to victims of trafficking in persons, including through governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, including the United Nations voluntary trust fund for victims of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, and the United Nations voluntary trust fund on contemporary forms of slavery,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[12]

Taking note with appreciation of the joint report of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse material, and the Special Rapporteur of the Council on trafficking in persons, especially women and children,[13]

Recognizing that, in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention is established to improve the capacity of States parties to combat transnational organized crime and to promote and review the implementation of the Convention, including the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children,

1. *Urges* Member States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to, as a matter of priority, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime[2] and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish

[12] A/71/119.
[13] A/72/164.

Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[3] taking into consideration the central role of those instruments in the fight against trafficking in persons, and also urges States parties to those instruments to implement them fully and effectively;

2. *Urges* Member States and other stakeholders mentioned in the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons,[14] and invites the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and relevant international, regional and subregional organizations, within their respective mandates, to continue to contribute to the full and effective implementation of the Global Plan of Action, including by means of strengthening cooperation and improving coordination among themselves in achieving that goal;

3. *Recalls* the holding of the high-level meetings of the General Assembly during its sixty-seventh session, from 13 to 15 May 2013, and during its seventy-second session, on 27 and 28 September 2017, to appraise the progress achieved in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action, which, inter alia, reiterated strong political will to step up efforts against trafficking in persons;

4. *Also recalls* its decision to appraise, from within existing resources, on a four-year basis starting at its seventy-second session, the progress achieved in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action in order to assess achievements, gaps and challenges, including in the implementation of the relevant legal instruments;

5. *Further recalls* its decision to designate 30 July as the World Day against Trafficking in Persons, to be observed annually, and, while welcoming events held by Member States, United Nations agencies, other international organizations and civil society at the international, regional and national levels to mark the World Day, invites all stakeholders to continue to observe the World Day in order to raise awareness of trafficking in persons and the situation of the victims of this crime and for the promotion and protection of their rights;

6. *Expresses solidarity with and compassion for* victims and survivors of trafficking in persons, and calls for the full respect of their human rights and the provision of appropriate care, assistance and services for their rehabilitation in cooperation with civil society and other relevant partners;

7. *Expresses support* for the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, reaffirms its request to the Secretary-General to provide adequate support to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and invites Member States to make voluntary contributions to the Office for the purpose of providing assistance to Member States upon request;

8. *Encourages* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to cooperate with relevant international organizations outside the United Nations system and to invite such organizations and interested Member States to participate, when appropriate, in the meetings of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons and to keep Member States informed of the schedule of and the progress made by the Inter-Agency Coordination Group;

9. *Takes note* of the consultative briefings for Member States hosted by the Inter-Agency Coordination Group at United Nations Headquarters in March and September 2017 on the work and priorities of the Coordination Group in 2017 and beyond, and welcomes the participation of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in the briefings as the first regional organization to partner with the Coordination Group;

[14] Resolution 64/293.

10. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, as coordinator of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group, as a matter of priority, to convene a meeting of the Coordination Group at the level of principals of the relevant United Nations agencies and organizations, including those agencies that are not active members of the Coordination Group, in order to drive progress in the coordination of activities, with a view to promoting the efficient and effective use of resources while avoiding duplication across agencies and organizations, including in the context of the implementation of the Global Plan of Action and aspects of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[1] relevant to preventing and combating trafficking in persons in order to achieve tangible results;

11. *Requests* the principals or key officials of the member agencies of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group, subsequent to the meeting of the Coordination Group at the level of principals, to hold briefings at their headquarters to inform their member States and other relevant partners about the outcome of the meeting and future activities of the Coordination Group;

12. *Requests* the Inter-Agency Coordination Group to work closely with the Committee of the Chief Statisticians of the United Nations System to compile and develop sets of indicators on trafficking relevant to different and specific contexts and agreed methods for data collection;

13. *Invites* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in its capacity as coordinator of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group, and other relevant agencies of the United Nations system to further strengthen their activities related to the implementation of relevant international instruments and the Global Plan of Action to drive greater progress in eliminating trafficking in persons, and invites Member States and other international and bilateral donors to provide voluntary contributions to the Office for these purposes, in accordance with the policies, rules and procedures of the United Nations;

14. *Calls upon* Member States to take into consideration new methods of recruiting victims of trafficking in persons, such as the use of the Internet by traffickers, in particular for recruiting children, to take measures to develop targeted awareness-raising campaigns, including for law enforcement, front-line service providers and at-risk industries, to identify the signs of human trafficking and to develop specialized training for law enforcement and criminal justice practitioners;

15. *Invites* Member States to address the social, economic, cultural, political and other factors that make people vulnerable to trafficking in persons, such as poverty, unemployment, inequality, humanitarian emergencies, including armed conflicts and natural disasters, sexual violence, gender discrimination and social exclusion and marginalization, as well as a culture of tolerance towards violence against women, youth and children;

16. *Calls upon* Member States, international organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector, through partnerships, as appropriate, to increase and support prevention efforts in countries of origin, transit and destination by focusing on the demand and supply chains that foster all forms of trafficking and the goods and services produced as a result of trafficking in persons;

17. *Encourages* Member States to cooperate with the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, as well as with other relevant special procedures, including the Special Rapporteur of the Council on violence against women, its causes and consequences, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, the Special Rapporteur of the Council on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse material, and the

Special Rapporteur of the Council on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences;

18. *Calls upon* Member States to continue their efforts to criminalize trafficking in persons in all its forms, including the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs, especially concerning children, and to condemn these practices and to investigate, prosecute and penalize traffickers and intermediaries while providing protection and assistance to the victims of trafficking with full respect for their human rights, and invites Member States to continue to support those United Nations agencies and international organizations that are actively involved in victim protection;

19. *Notes* the second consultative meeting on strengthening partnerships with national rapporteurs and relevant mechanisms on trafficking in persons, held in Bangkok on 21 and 22 May 2014, co-hosted by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the establishment of an informal network of such mechanisms located all over the world to address trafficking in persons in a consistent manner and to exchange information and best practices built on different national experiences, and requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue its efforts to collect information on national efforts to combat trafficking in persons, as well as relevant national mechanisms, and make up-to-date information available to Member States;

20. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in its capacity as fund manager of the United Nations voluntary trust fund for victims of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, to continue to encourage contributions by States and all other relevant stakeholders to the trust fund;

21. *Welcomes* the biennial publication of the *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons*, prepared by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, looks forward to the next such report to be produced by the Office in 2018, pursuant to the Global Plan of Action, and encourages Member States to provide to the Office evidence-based data on patterns, flows and forms of trafficking in persons, including for the purpose of the removal of organs;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session, including recommendations on measures to bring greater urgency to and improve the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons.

73rd plenary meeting
19 December 2017

United Nations A/RES/72/196

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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 19 December 2017

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/72/440)*]

72/196. Strengthening the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 46/152 of 18 December 1991, 60/1 of 16 September 2005, 67/1 of 19 September 2012, 69/193 and 69/196 of 18 December 2014, 70/178 and 70/182 of 17 December 2015 and 71/209 of 19 December 2016,

Reaffirming also its resolutions relating to the urgent need to strengthen international cooperation and technical assistance in promoting and facilitating the ratification and implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto,[1] the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,[2] the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971,[3] the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,[4] the United Nations Convention against Corruption[5] and all the international conventions and protocols against terrorism,

Recalling the importance of the Doha Declaration on Integrating Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice into the Wider United Nations Agenda to Address Social and Economic Challenges and to Promote the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels, and Public Participation, adopted by the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,[6]

Welcoming Economic and Social Council resolution 2017/15 of 6 July 2017 on the follow-up to the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vols. 2225, 2237, 2241 and 2326, No. 39574.
[2] Ibid., vol. 976, No. 14152.
[3] Ibid., vol. 1019, No. 14956.
[4] Ibid., vol. 1582, No. 27627.
[5] Ibid., vol. 2349, No. 42146.
[6] Resolution 70/174, annex.

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Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and the decision that the main theme of the Fourteenth Congress should be "Advancing crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law: towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda",

Expressing its grave concern about the negative effects of transnational organized crime on development, peace, stability and security and human rights, about the increasing vulnerability of States to such crime and about the growing degree of penetration of criminal organizations and their financial and economic resources into the economy,

Expressing concern at the involvement of organized criminal groups, as well as the substantial increase in the volume, rate of transnational occurrence and range of criminal offences related to trafficking in precious metals and stones in some parts of the world, and the potential use of trafficking in precious metals and stones as a source of funding for organized crime, other relevant criminal activities and terrorism,

Deeply concerned about the growing links, in some cases, between forms of transnational organized crime and terrorism, recognizing that countering transnational organized crime and terrorism is a common and shared responsibility, and in this respect welcoming Economic and Social Council resolution 2017/17 of 6 July 2017 on technical assistance for implementing the international conventions and protocols related to counter-terrorism,

Convinced that the rule of law and development are strongly interrelated and mutually reinforcing and that the advancement of the rule of law at the national and international levels, including through crime prevention and criminal justice mechanisms, is essential for sustained and inclusive economic growth and sustainable development and the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, and in this respect welcoming the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[7] which, inter alia, includes the commitment to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, and in this respect recalling its resolution 70/299 of 29 July 2016 on the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level,

Emphasizing that transnational organized crime must be addressed with full respect for the principle of the sovereignty of States and in accordance with the rule of law as part of a comprehensive response to promote durable solutions through the promotion of human rights and more equitable socioeconomic conditions,

Encouraging Member States to develop and implement, as appropriate, comprehensive crime prevention policies, national and local strategies and action plans based on an understanding of the multiple factors that contribute to crime and to address such factors in a holistic manner, in close cooperation with all stakeholders, including civil society, and in this respect stressing that social development and the promotion of the rule of law, including the fostering of a culture of lawfulness while respecting cultural identities, in accordance with the Doha Declaration, should be integral elements of strategies to foster crime prevention and economic development in all States,

Reaffirming its commitment and strong political will in support of effective, fair, humane and accountable criminal justice systems and the institutions comprising them, encouraging the effective participation and inclusion of all sectors of society, thus creating the conditions needed to advance the wider United Nations agenda, and recognizing the responsibility of Member States to uphold human dignity, all human

[7] Resolution 70/1.

rights and fundamental freedoms for all, in particular for those affected by crime and those who may be in contact with the criminal justice system, including vulnerable members of society, regardless of their status, who may be subject to multiple and aggravated forms of discrimination, and to prevent and counter crime motivated by intolerance or discrimination of any kind,

Taking note of resolution 25/2 of 27 May 2016 of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on promoting legal aid, including through a network of legal aid providers,[8] in which the Commission encouraged Member States to adopt or strengthen legislative or other measures to ensure that effective legal aid, including for victims of crime, is provided consistent with their domestic legislation and in line with the United Nations Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems,[9] and which also contributes to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Welcoming the efforts made by some Member States to establish a common documentation standard as a tool for facilitating both technical interoperability and accessibility of legal documentation,

Deeply concerned about the negative impact of corruption on development and on the enjoyment of human rights, and recognizing the universal importance of good governance, transparency, integrity and accountability, thus calling for a zero-tolerance approach to corruption and more effective measures to prevent and counter corruption in all its forms, including bribery, as well as measures to prevent the laundering of proceeds of corruption and other forms of crime,

Noting the holding of the seventh session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, in Vienna from 6 to 10 November 2017,

Welcoming the progress made with regard to the second cycle of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and stressing the importance of effective implementation of the Convention in all its aspects by all States parties,

Bearing in mind that the return of assets is one of the main objectives and a fundamental principle of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and that the States parties to the Convention are obligated to afford one another the widest measure of cooperation and assistance in that regard,

Recognizing that, thanks to their nearly universal adherence and wide scope of application, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime[10] and the United Nations Convention against Corruption offer fundamental legal bases for international cooperation to support the investigation and prosecution of crimes covered by those Conventions, including for extradition, mutual legal assistance and confiscation and asset recovery, and that they provide effective mechanisms that should be further implemented and utilized in practice,

Recognizing also the efforts of the Group of 20 in countering corruption at both the global and the national levels, taking note with appreciation of the anti-corruption initiatives outlined in the Group of 20 Hangzhou Summit communique,[11] and urging the Group of 20 to continue to engage other States Members of the United Nations and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in its work in an inclusive and

[8] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2016, Supplement No. 10* (E/2016/30), chap. I, sect. D.

[9] Resolution 67/187, annex.

[10] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2225, No. 39574.

[11] See A/71/380, annex.

transparent manner to ensure that Group of 20 initiatives complement or strengthen the work being undertaken by the United Nations system,

Stressing the importance of strengthened international cooperation, based on the principles of shared responsibility and in accordance with international law, to effectively address the world drug problem, dismantle illicit networks and counter transnational organized crime, including money-laundering, smuggling of migrants, trafficking in persons, trafficking in arms and other forms of organized crime, all of which threaten national security and undermine sustainable development and the rule of law, and stressing also in this respect the importance of law enforcement cooperation and exchange of information, as well as of designated central authorities and effective points of contact dedicated to facilitating the procedures related to international cooperation, including for extradition and mutual legal assistance requests, as well as the importance of the coordinating role of relevant regional networks,

Welcoming, in this respect, the high-level debate held on 19 June 2017 to observe the twenty-fifth anniversary of the assassination of Judge Giovanni Falcone and to support the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, and taking note of the summary of the discussion prepared by the President of the General Assembly and transmitted to the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and to all Member States,

Noting the important contribution that public-private sector cooperation can make in efforts to prevent and combat criminal activities, such as transnational organized crime, corruption and terrorism, in particular in the tourism sector,

Reaffirming the commitments made by Member States in the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, adopted on 8 September 2006,[12] and its successive biennial reviews, in particular in its resolution 70/291 of 1 July 2016, in which it encouraged Member States and United Nations entities to strengthen and better coordinate their actions against terrorism and to prevent and combat violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism, including through technical assistance provided to Member States upon their request, and welcoming in this respect the establishment of the Office of Counter-Terrorism through its resolution 71/291 of 15 June 2017 on strengthening the capability of the United Nations system to assist Member States in implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy,

Highlighting the importance of its resolutions on measures to eliminate international terrorism and on the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism adopted at its seventy-second session,

Recalling its resolution 71/208 of 19 December 2016 on preventing and combating corrupt practices and the transfer of proceeds of corruption, facilitating asset recovery and returning such assets to legitimate owners, in particular to countries of origin, in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Corruption,

Recalling also its resolutions 66/177 of 19 December 2011 on strengthening international cooperation in combating the harmful effects of illicit financial flows resulting from criminal activities, in which it urged States parties to the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the United Nations Convention against Corruption to apply fully the provisions of those

[12] Resolution 60/288.

Conventions, in particular measures to prevent and combat money-laundering, including by criminalizing the laundering of proceeds of transnational organized crime, as well as measures to enhance national confiscation regimes and international cooperation, including in asset recovery, and recalling further its resolution 71/213 of 21 December 2016, in which, inter alia, it highlighted deep concern about the impact of those threats on economic, social and political stability,

Expressing concern that economic resources, such as oil, oil products, modular refineries and related material, other natural resources and other assets become available to organized criminal and terrorist groups,

Taking into consideration all resolutions of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the relevant resolutions of the Economic and Social Council, in particular those relating to the strengthening of international cooperation, as well as the technical assistance and advisory services of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the fields of crime prevention and criminal justice, promotion and reinforcement of the rule of law and reform of criminal justice institutions, including with regard to the implementation of technical assistance

Noting the establishment by the Secretary-General of the United Nations system task force on transnational organized crime and drug trafficking for the purpose of developing an effective and comprehensive approach to those crimes within the United Nations system, and reaffirming the crucial role of Member States in this regard, as reflected in the Charter of the United Nations,

Recognizing the general progress made by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the delivery of advisory services and technical assistance to requesting Member States in the areas of crime prevention and criminal justice reform, data and information analysis, preventing and countering organized crime, corruption, illicit financial flows, money-laundering, criminal misuse of the Internet and other information and communications technologies, as well as such misuse for terrorist purposes, illicit trafficking in wildlife and timber, trafficking in cultural property, kidnapping, smuggling of migrants, organ trafficking, trafficking in persons, including the support and protection, as appropriate, of victims, their families and witnesses, drug trafficking and terrorism, including progress in tackling the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters, as well as in the area of international cooperation, with special emphasis on extradition and mutual legal assistance and the international transfer of sentenced persons,

Welcoming the adoption by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime of a regional approach to programming, based on continuing consultations and partnerships at the national and regional levels, particularly on its implementation, and focused on ensuring that the Office responds in a sustainable and coherent manner to the priorities of Member States,

Reiterating its concern regarding the overall financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and welcoming the extension of the mandate of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the Office,

Welcoming resolution 26/3 of 26 May 2017 of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on mainstreaming a gender perspective into crime prevention and criminal justice policies and programmes and into efforts to prevent and combat transnational organized crime,[13]

[13] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2017, Supplement No. 10* (E/2017/30), chap. I, sect. D.

Reaffirming its resolution 71/170 of 19 December 2016, entitled "Intensification of efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls: domestic violence", recalling the resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights and the Human Rights Council addressing various aspects of violence against women and girls of all ages, and recalling also the agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-eighth session, which addressed the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls,[14]

Reiterating its condemnation of all forms of violence against women and girls, expressing deep concern about gender-related killing of women and girls, recalling all its relevant resolutions, including resolutions 68/191 of 18 December 2013 and 70/176 of 17 December 2015 on taking action against gender-related killing of women and girls, and recognizing the key role of law enforcement and the criminal justice system in preventing and responding to gender-related killing of women and girls, including by ending impunity for such crimes,

Noting the significance of the United Nations Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice[15] as a way to assist countries in strengthening their national crime prevention and criminal justice capacities to respond to all forms of violence against women and girls,

Recalling its resolution 69/194 of 18 December 2014, by which it adopted the United Nations Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, convinced of the importance of preventing youth crime, supporting the rehabilitation of young offenders and their reintegration into society, protecting in particular child victims of all forms of violence, including those in contact with the law and witnesses, including efforts to prevent their revictimization, and addressing the needs of children of prisoners, stressing that such responses should take into account the human rights and best interests of children and young people, consistent with the obligations of the States parties under relevant international instruments, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child[16] and the Optional Protocols thereto,[17] and noting other relevant United Nations standards and norms in juvenile justice,

Emphasizing the relevance of international instruments and United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice related to the treatment of prisoners, in particular women and juveniles,

Recalling its resolution 70/146 of 17 December 2015, in which it reaffirmed that no one shall be subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment,

Stressing the importance of the Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials[18] and the Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials,[19] which are voluntary guidelines that emphasize, inter alia, efficient and human rights-based policing,

Recalling its resolution 65/229 of 21 December 2010 on the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women

[14] *Ibid., 2014 Supplement No. 7 (E/2014/27)*, chap. I, sect. A.

[15] Resolution 69/194, annex.

[16] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

[17] *Ibid.*, vols. 2171 and 2173, No. 27531, and resolution 66/138, annex.

[18] Resolution 34/169, annex.

[19] See *Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Havana, 27 August–7 September 1990: report prepared by the Secretariat* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.91.IV.2), chap. I, sect. B.

Offenders (the Bangkok Rules), and in this regard encouraging the efforts of Member States to implement the Bangkok Rules,

Welcoming the adoption, by its resolution 70/175 of 17 December 2015, of the revision to the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, as the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules), and the adoption of Economic and Social Council resolution 2017/16 of 6 July 2017, in which, inter alia, Member States are encouraged to endeavour to improve conditions of imprisonment and to promote the practical application of the Nelson Mandela Rules as the universally acknowledged and updated minimum standards for the treatment of prisoners, to use the Rules as a guide in the development of prison laws, policies and practices, to continue exchanging good practices and identifying challenges faced in the practical application of the Rules and to share their experiences in dealing with those challenges,

Welcoming also Economic and Social Council resolution 2017/19 of 6 July 2017 on promoting and encouraging the implementation of alternatives to imprisonment as part of comprehensive crime prevention and criminal justice policies,

Reiterating its strong condemnation of trafficking in persons, which constitutes a serious crime and a grave offence to human dignity and physical integrity, a violation and abuse of human rights and a challenge to sustainable development and requires the implementation of a comprehensive approach that includes measures to prevent such trafficking, to punish the traffickers and to protect the victims of such trafficking, and a robust criminal justice response, and recalling in this respect the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[7] and its resolutions 70/179 of 17 December 2015 and 71/167 of 19 December 2016,

Recalling its resolution 71/322 of 8 September 2017 on strengthening and promoting effective measures and international cooperation on organ donation and transplantation to prevent and combat trafficking in persons for the purpose of organ removal and trafficking in human organs,

Welcoming its resolution 72/1 of 27 September 2017, by which it adopted the political declaration on the implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons,

Underlining that Member States need to recognize that the crime of smuggling of migrants and the crime of trafficking in persons are distinct crimes and require separate and complementary legal, operational and policy responses, and recalling its resolutions 69/187 of 18 December 2014 and 70/147 of 17 December 2015, in which it called upon all Member States to protect and assist migrants, including migrant children and adolescents, and Economic and Social Council resolutions 2014/23 of 16 July 2014 and 2015/23 of 21 July 2015,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1, in which it, inter alia, committed to taking immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour,

Recalling its resolution 71/1 of 19 September 2016, by which it adopted the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, which addresses the issue of large movements of refugees and migrants,

[7] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2237, No. 39574.

Welcoming the work of the United Nations voluntary trust fund for victims of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, established in accordance with the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, adopted by its resolution 64/293 of 30 July 2010, as well as the important contribution of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on trafficking in persons, especially women and children,

Concerned at the growing involvement of terrorist and organized criminal groups in all forms and aspects of trafficking in cultural property and related offences, and alarmed by the destruction of cultural heritage perpetrated recently by terrorist groups, which is linked to trafficking in cultural property in some countries and to financing of terrorist activities,

Recognizing the indispensable role of crime prevention and criminal justice responses in combating all forms and aspects of trafficking in cultural property and related offences in a comprehensive and effective manner, and underlining the importance of the practical assistance tool aimed at supporting the implementation of the International Guidelines for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Responses with Respect to Trafficking in Cultural Property and Other Related Offences[21] through the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the implementation of resolutions 68/186 of 18 December 2013, 69/196, and 70/76 of 9 December 2015, and facilitating operational cooperation against all forms of trafficking in cultural property, and the request to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to provide practical assistance in the implementation of the Guidelines and to facilitate cooperation in this area, including in countering the financing of terrorism in accordance with resolution 70/177 of 17 December 2015,

Affirming that the destruction of cultural heritage, which is representative of the diversity of human culture, erases the collective memories of a nation, destabilizes communities and threatens their cultural identity, and emphasizing the importance of cultural diversity and pluralism as well as freedom of religion and belief for achieving peace, stability, reconciliation and social cohesion, and recalling in this respect its resolution 70/76,

Reaffirming the intrinsic value of biological diversity and its various contributions to sustainable development and human well-being, and recognizing that wild fauna and flora in their many beautiful and varied forms are an irreplaceable part of the natural systems of the Earth which must be protected for this generation and the generations to come,

Emphasizing that the protection of wildlife must be part of a comprehensive approach to achieving poverty eradication, food security, sustainable development, including the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, economic growth, social well-being and sustainable livelihoods,

Expressing deep concern about crimes that affect the environment, including illicit trafficking in endangered and, where applicable, protected species of wild fauna and flora, and in hazardous waste, and emphasizing the need to combat such crimes by strengthening coordinated action to eliminate, prevent and combat corruption and disrupt illicit networks and also by coordinating international cooperation, capacity-building, criminal justice responses and law enforcement efforts,

Recalling the adoption of its resolutions 69/314 of 30 July 2015, 70/301 of 9 September 2016 and 71/326 of 11 September 2017 on tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife,

[21] Resolution 69/196, annex.

Concerned at the growing trend of cybercrime and the misuse of information and telecommunications technologies in multiple forms of crime,

Welcoming, in this respect, resolution 26/4 of 26 May 2017 of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on strengthening international cooperation to combat cybercrime,[11]13 in which the open-ended intergovernmental Expert Group to Conduct a Comprehensive Study on Cybercrime is requested to continue its work and exchange of information on national legislation, best practices, technical assistance and international cooperation with a view to examining options to strengthen existing responses and propose new national and international legal or other responses to cybercrime, and is encouraged to develop possible conclusions and recommendations for submission to the Commission,

Concerned at the serious challenges and threats posed by trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, and about its links with other forms of transnational organized crime, including drug trafficking, as well as terrorism,

Noting international efforts to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in conventional arms, in particular in small arms and light weapons, as demonstrated by the adoption in 2001 of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects,[22] the entry into force in 2005 of the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[23] and the entry into force in 2014 of the Arms Trade Treaty,[24]

Reaffirming its resolution 71/211 of 19 December 2016 on international cooperation to address and counter the world drug problem, and reaffirming also the outcome document, entitled "Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem," adopted at the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, held at United Nations Headquarters from 19 to 21 April 2016,[25] and the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, adopted by the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session,[26] and the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action,[27]

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General prepared pursuant to resolutions 64/293, 69/199 of 18 December 2014 and 71/209;[28]

2. *Reaffirms* its resolution 70/1, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", which, inter alia, includes the commitment to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels;

3. *Calls upon* all Member States, when appropriate, to take into consideration the Doha Declaration on Integrating Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice into the Wider United Nations Agenda to Address Social and Economic Challenges and to

[22] *Report of the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, New York, 9–20 July 2001* (A/CONF.192/15), chap. IV, para. 24.

[23] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2326, No. 39574.

[24] See resolution 67/234 B.

[25] Resolution S-30/1, annex.

[26] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8* (E/2009/28), chap. I, sect. C.

[27] Ibid., *2014, Supplement No. 8* (E/2014/28), chap. I, sect. C.

[28] A/72/125.

Promote the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels, and Public Participation, adopted at the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Doha from 12 to 19 April 2015,[8] when formulating legislation and policy directives, and to make every effort, where appropriate, to implement the principles contained therein in conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

4. *Urges* Member States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto,[1] the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,[2] the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971,[3] the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,[4] the United Nations Convention against Corruption[5] and the international conventions and protocols related to terrorism, and urges States parties to those conventions and protocols to make efforts towards their effective implementation;

5. *Reaffirms* that the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto represent the most important tools of the international community for fighting transnational organized crime, and notes with appreciation that the number of States parties has reached 189, which is a significant indication of the commitment shown by the international community to combating transnational organized crime;

6. *Recalls* article 32 of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime[10] and General Assembly resolution 69/197 of 18 December 2014, in which, inter alia, the need for the establishment of a mechanism to review the implementation of the Convention and the Protocols thereto by States parties was reiterated, and underlines that the review of the implementation of the Convention is an ongoing and gradual process and that it is necessary to explore all options regarding the establishment of a mechanism to assist the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime in the review of the implementation of the Convention and the Protocols thereto;

7. *Welcomes with appreciation* the decision of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its eighth session to continue the process of establishing a mechanism for the review of the implementation of the Convention and the Protocols thereto and to elaborate specific procedures and rules for the functioning of the mechanism, which shall include the elements specified by the Conference of the Parties, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth session, as well as its decision that the mechanism shall progressively address all the articles of the Convention and the Protocols thereto, in accordance with the clusters of articles and the multi-year workplan, and welcomes in particular the recommendations contained in resolution 8/2 of the Conference of the Parties adopted on 21 October 2016[29] and the first session of the open-ended intergovernmental meeting, held in Vienna from 24 to 26 April 2017;

8. *Welcomes* the decisions of the Conference of the Parties at its eighth session to promote greater use of the Convention by central authorities in extradition and mutual legal assistance and to enhance the effectiveness of these authorities and to strengthen, as appropriate, the implementation of the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime;[23]

[29] See CTOC/COP/2016/15, sect. I.A.

9. *Urges* States parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption to continue to provide full support to the review mechanism adopted by the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, notes the progress made under the second cycle of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the Convention, and further notes with appreciation that the number of States parties has reached 183, which is a significant indication of the commitment shown by the international community to combating corruption and related crimes;

10. *Welcomes* the progress achieved by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption in the implementation of their respective mandates, and calls upon States parties to give full effect to the resolutions adopted by those bodies, including providing information regarding compliance with the treaties;

11. *Invites* the President of the General Assembly, in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and with the involvement of relevant stakeholders, to hold, within existing resources and during the seventy-second session, a high-level debate to mark the fifteenth anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and to highlight emerging trends and promote the effective implementation of the Convention, and to prepare a President's summary of the discussion for transmission to the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention and to all Member States;

12. *Encourages* Member States to strengthen the capacity of their respective criminal justice systems to investigate, prosecute and punish all forms of crime, while supporting an effective, fair, humane and accountable criminal justice system and protecting the human rights and fundamental freedoms of defendants, as well as the legitimate interests of victims and witnesses, and to adopt and reinforce measures to ensure access to effective legal aid in criminal justice systems;

13. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to provide technical assistance to Member States, upon request, to strengthen the rule of law, taking also into account the work undertaken by other United Nations entities, within existing mandates, as well as regional and bilateral efforts, and to continue to ensure coordination and coherence, including through the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group;

14. *Reiterates* the importance of providing the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme with sufficient, stable and predictable funding for the full implementation of its mandates;

15. *Encourages* all States to have national and local action plans for crime prevention in order to take into account, in a comprehensive, integrated and participatory manner, inter alia, factors that place certain populations and places at higher risk of victimization and/or of offending, and to ensure that such plans are based on the best available evidence and good practices, and stresses that crime prevention should be considered an integral element of strategies to foster social and economic development in all States, in accordance with the commitments contained in General Assembly resolutions 70/1 and 70/299;

16. *Urges* Member States and relevant international organizations, in cooperation with the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, to develop national, subregional, regional and international strategies, as appropriate, and other necessary measures, including the establishment, in accordance with domestic legislation, of designated central authorities and effective points of contact dedicated to facilitating the procedures related to international cooperation,

including for extradition and mutual legal assistance requests, in order to effectively address transnational organized crime, and to strengthen all forms of cooperation to enable the return of illicitly acquired assets in accordance with the provisions of the United Nations Convention against Corruption for asset recovery, in particular chapter V, with the cooperation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its existing mandate;

17. *Encourages* Member States to study the implementation of a common documentation standard, including within the United Nations system and in cooperation with relevant international institutions;

18. *Reaffirms* the importance of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme in promoting effective action to strengthen international cooperation in crime prevention and criminal justice, as well as of the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the fulfilment of its mandate in crime prevention and criminal justice, including providing to Member States, upon request and as a matter of high priority, technical cooperation, advisory services and other forms of assistance, and coordinating with and complementing the work of all relevant and competent United Nations bodies and offices in respect of all forms of organized crime, including piracy and transnational organized crime committed at sea, cybercrime, the use of new information technologies to abuse and exploit children, as well as identity-related crime, trafficking in cultural property and artefacts, illicit financial flows, economic and financial crimes, including fraud, as well as tax and corporate crimes, trafficking in precious metals and stones, counterfeiting in trademark goods, crimes that affect the environment and illicit trafficking in endangered species of wild fauna and flora, drug trafficking, trafficking in persons, smuggling of migrants and illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, direct and indirect trade in oil and refined oil products with organized criminal and terrorist groups, as well as corruption and terrorism;

19. *Encourages* Member States to collect relevant information and to further identify, analyse and counter any existing, growing or potential links, in some cases, between transnational organized crime, illicit drug-related activities, money-laundering and the financing of terrorism, in order to enhance criminal justice responses to those crimes, and calls upon the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its relevant mandates, to support, upon request, the efforts of Member States in that regard;

20. *Calls upon* Member States to strengthen cooperation at the international, regional, subregional and bilateral levels to counter the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters, including through enhanced operational and timely information-sharing, logistical support, as appropriate, and capacity-building activities, such as those provided by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, to share and adopt best practices to identify foreign terrorist fighters, to prevent the travel of foreign terrorist fighters from, into or through Member States, to prevent the financing, mobilization, recruitment and organization of foreign terrorist fighters, to prevent and counter violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism, to enhance efforts to implement prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration strategies and to ensure that any person who participates in the financing, planning, preparation or perpetration of terrorist acts or in the supporting of terrorist acts is brought to justice, in compliance with obligations under international law, as well as applicable domestic law;

21. *Urges* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to increase collaboration with intergovernmental, international and regional organizations that have transnational organized crime mandates, as appropriate, in order to share best practices, foster cooperation and take advantage of their unique and comparative advantage;

22. *Reaffirms* the importance of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and its country and regional offices in building capacity at the local level in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, and urges the Office to consider regional vulnerabilities, projects and impacts in the fight against transnational organized crime in all its forms, in particular in developing countries, when deciding to close and allocate offices, with a view to maintaining an effective level of support to national and regional efforts in those areas;

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime with adequate resources to support, in an effective manner, efforts towards the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971, the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 and the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and to discharge its functions as the secretariat of the conferences of the parties to the conventions, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as well as the United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice, in accordance with its mandate, and requests the Secretariat to continue to provide support to the Commissions within their respective mandates, enabling them to actively contribute, as appropriate, to the global follow-up and the thematic review of progress made by Member States in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals as set forth in resolution 70/299;

24. *Urges* all Member States to provide the fullest possible financial and political support to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime by widening its donor base and increasing voluntary contributions, in particular general-purpose contributions, so as to enable it to continue, expand, improve and strengthen, within its mandates, its research, operational and technical cooperation activities;

25. *Expresses concern* regarding the overall financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, emphasizes the need to provide the Office with adequate, predictable and stable resources and to ensure their cost-effective utilization, and requests the Secretary-General, also considering the extension of the mandate of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the Office, to continue to report, within existing reporting obligations, on the financial situation of the Office and to continue to ensure that the Office has sufficient resources to carry out its mandates fully and effectively;

26. *Invites* States and other interested parties to make further voluntary contributions to the United Nations voluntary trust fund for victims of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, and to the United Nations voluntary trust fund on contemporary forms of slavery;

27. *Calls upon* Member States to intensify national and international efforts to eliminate all forms of discrimination, including racism, religious intolerance, xenophobia and gender-related discrimination by, inter alia, raising awareness, developing educational materials and programmes and considering, where appropriate, drafting and enforcing legislation against discrimination;

28. *Emphasizes* the importance of protecting vulnerable members of society, regardless of their status, who may be subject to multiple and aggravated forms of discrimination, and in that regard expresses its concern about the increase in the activities of transnational and national organized criminal groups and others who profit from crimes against migrants, especially women and children, without regard for dangerous and inhumane conditions and in flagrant violation of national laws and international law;

29. *Calls upon* Member States to implement, when appropriate, the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules),[30] bearing in mind their spirit and purpose, and to intensify their efforts to address the challenge of prison overcrowding through appropriate criminal justice reforms, which should include, where appropriate, a review of penal policies and practical measures to reduce pretrial detention, to enhance the use of non-custodial sanctions and measures and to improve access to legal aid to the extent possible, and requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to provide technical assistance to Member States, upon request, in this respect;

30. *Invites* Member States to mainstream a gender perspective into their criminal justice systems, including by the use of non-custodial measures for women, when appropriate, and by improving the treatment of women prisoners, taking into consideration the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules),[31] and by developing and implementing national strategies and plans to promote the full protection of women and girls from all acts of violence and to strengthen the crime prevention and criminal justice response to the gender-related killing of women and girls, in particular by taking measures to support the practical capacity of Member States to prevent, investigate, prosecute and punish all forms of such crime, and welcomes in this respect the practical tools recommended by the open-ended intergovernmental expert group on gender-related killing of women and girls at its meeting held in Bangkok from 11 to 13 November 2014;[32]

31. *Also invites* Member States to integrate child- and youth-related issues into their criminal justice reform efforts, recognizing the importance of protecting children from all forms of violence, exploitation and abuse, consistent with the obligations of parties under relevant international instruments, and to develop comprehensive child-sensitive justice policies focused on the best interests of the child, consistent with the principle that the deprivation of liberty of children should be used only as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time;

32. *Recognizes* the efforts made by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to assist Member States in developing their abilities and strengthening their capacity to prevent and combat kidnapping, and requests the Office to continue to provide technical assistance, with a view to fostering international cooperation, in particular mutual legal assistance, aimed at countering effectively this growing serious crime;

33. *Calls upon* Member States to consider ratifying or acceding to the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[33] to reinforce international cooperation for preventing and combating the smuggling of migrants and for the prosecution of smugglers, in accordance, as appropriate, with article 6 of the Protocol and with national laws and legislation, while effectively protecting the rights and respecting the dignity of smuggled migrants, consistent with the principles of non-discrimination and other applicable obligations under relevant international law, taking into account the special needs of women, children, especially when unaccompanied, and persons with disabilities and older persons, and in collaboration with international organizations, civil society and the private sector, and in this regard calls upon the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue its technical assistance to Member States in accordance with the Protocol;

[30] Resolution 70/175, annex.

[31] Resolution 65/229, annex.

[32] See E/CN.15/2015/16.

[33] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2241, No. 39574.

34. *Encourages* Member States to ensure that, in investigating and prosecuting the smuggling of migrants, the concurrent undertaking of financial investigations is considered, with a view to tracing, freezing and confiscating proceeds acquired through that crime, and to consider the smuggling of migrants to be a predicate offence of money-laundering;

35. *Emphasizes* the importance of preventing and combating all forms of trafficking in persons, and in this regard expresses its concern about the activities of transnational and national organized criminal groups and others who profit from such crimes, including for the purpose of organ removal, and calls upon Member States to consider ratifying or acceding to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[5] as well as to strengthen national efforts to combat all forms of trafficking in persons and to protect and assist the victims of trafficking in accordance with all relevant legal obligations and in collaboration with international organizations, civil society and the private sector, and in this regard calls upon the United Office on Drugs and Crime to continue its technical assistance to Member States in accordance with the Protocol;

36. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to enhance its technical assistance to Member States, upon request, to strengthen international cooperation in preventing and combating terrorism, including the phenomenon of travelling, returning and relocating foreign terrorist fighters, especially with regard to extradition and mutual legal assistance, and its financial sources, through the facilitation of the ratification and implementation of the universal conventions and protocols related to terrorism, in close consultation and cooperation with the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism (the Counter-Terrorism Committee) and its Executive Directorate, as well as to contribute to the work of the Office of Counter-Terrorism, established in accordance with resolution 71/291, and invites Member States to provide the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime with appropriate resources for its mandate;

37. *Urges* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to provide, within its mandate, technical assistance to Member States, upon their request, to combat money-laundering and the financing of terrorism through the Global Programme against Money-Laundering, Proceeds of Crime and the Financing of Terrorism, in accordance with United Nations-related instruments and international standards, including, where applicable, standards and relevant initiatives of regional, interregional and multilateral organizations and intergovernmental bodies against money-laundering, inter alia and as appropriate, the Financial Action Task Force, in accordance with national legislation;

38. *Encourages* Member States to enhance the effectiveness of countering criminal threats to the tourism sector, including terrorist threats, through, when appropriate, the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other relevant international organizations, in cooperation with the World Tourism Organization and the private sector;

39. *Affirms* that attacks intentionally directed against buildings dedicated to religion, education, art, science or charitable purposes, or historic monuments, or hospitals and places where the sick and wounded are collected, may amount to war crimes, stresses the importance of holding accountable perpetrators of attacks intentionally directed against the above-mentioned buildings, provided that they are not military objectives, and calls upon all States to take appropriate action to this end within their jurisdiction in accordance with applicable international law;

40. *Urges* States parties to make effective use of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime for broad cooperation in preventing and combating all forms and aspects of trafficking in cultural property and related offences, including money-laundering and the financing of terrorism, especially in returning such confiscated proceeds of crime or property to their legitimate owners, in accordance with article 14, paragraph 2, of the Convention, invites States parties to exchange information and statistical data on all forms and aspects of trafficking in cultural property and related offences, and reaffirms in this regard the importance of the International Guidelines for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Responses with Respect to Trafficking in Cultural Property and Other Related Offences, as adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 69/196;

41. *Urges* Member States to introduce effective national and international measures to prevent and combat illicit trafficking in cultural property, including publicizing legislation, international guidelines and related technical background documents, and offering special training for police, customs and border services, and invites Member States to make trafficking in cultural property, including stealing from and looting of archaeological and other cultural sites, a serious crime, as defined in article 2 (b) of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime;

42. *Also urges* Member States to take decisive steps at the national level to prevent, combat and eradicate the illegal trade in wildlife, on both the supply and demand sides, including by strengthening the legislation necessary for the prevention, investigation and prosecution of such illegal trade, as well as by strengthening enforcement and criminal justice responses, in accordance with national legislation and international law, acknowledging that the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime can provide valuable technical assistance in this regard;

43. *Calls upon* Member States to make illicit trafficking in protected species of wild fauna and flora and in hazardous waste involving organized criminal groups a serious crime in accordance with their national legislation and with article 2 (b) of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime;

44. *Also calls* upon Member States to take appropriate and effective measures to prevent and combat trafficking in precious metals and stones by organized criminal groups, including, where appropriate, the adoption and effective implementation of the necessary legislation for the prevention, investigation and prosecution of illicit trafficking in precious metals and stones;

45. *Encourages* Member States to continue to support the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in providing targeted technical assistance, within its existing mandate, to enhance the capacity of affected States, upon their request, to combat piracy and other forms of crime committed at sea, including by assisting Member States in creating an effective law enforcement response and strengthening their judicial capacity;

46. *Notes with appreciation* the third meeting of the open-ended intergovernmental Expert Group to Conduct a Comprehensive Study on Cybercrime and the responses to cybercrime by Member States, the international community and the private sector, and calls upon Member States to support the work of the expert group and to explore specific measures and develop possible conclusions and recommendations designed to create a secure and resilient cyberenvironment, to prevent and counter effectively criminal activities carried out over the Internet, paying particular attention to identity theft, recruitment for the purpose of trafficking in persons and protecting children from online exploitation and abuse, to strengthen law enforcement cooperation at the national and international levels, including with the aim of identifying and protecting victims by, inter alia, removing child

pornography, in particular child sexual abuse imagery, from the Internet, to enhance the security of computer networks and protect the integrity of relevant infrastructure, and to endeavour to provide long-term technical assistance and capacity-building to strengthen the ability of national authorities to deal with cybercrime, including the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of such crime in all its forms;

47. *Encourages* Member States to strengthen their efforts in combating cybercrime and all forms of criminal abuse of information and telecommunications technologies, and to enhance international cooperation in this regard;

48. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to assist Member States, upon request, in combating the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, and to support them in their efforts to address the links with other forms of transnational organized crime, through, inter alia, legislative assistance, technical support and improved data collection and analysis;

49. *Urges* Member States to exchange good practices and experiences of practitioners who are involved in combating illicit trafficking in firearms and to consider the use of available tools, including marking and record-keeping technologies, to facilitate the tracing of firearms and, where possible, their parts and components and ammunition, in order to enhance criminal investigations into illicit trafficking in firearms;

50. *Urges* States parties to the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition that import and export parts and components of firearms to reinforce their control measures in line with the Protocol and other relevant international legal instruments to which they are party, with a view to preventing and reducing the risks of their diversion, illicit manufacturing and trafficking;

51. *Calls upon* Member States to intensify all efforts to address the world drug problem, based upon the principle of common and shared responsibility and through a comprehensive and balanced approach, including through more effective bilateral, regional and international cooperation among judicial and law enforcement authorities, to counter the involvement of organized criminal groups in illicit drug production and trafficking and related criminal activities and to take steps to reduce the violence that accompanies drug trafficking;

52. *Recommends* that Member States, as appropriate to their national contexts, adopt a comprehensive and integrated approach to crime prevention and criminal justice reform, based on baseline assessments, regular data collection and analysis, and focusing on all sectors of the justice system, and develop crime prevention policies, strategies and programmes, including ones that focus on early prevention by using multidisciplinary and participatory approaches, in close cooperation with all stakeholders, including civil society, and requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to provide technical assistance, upon request, to Member States for this purpose;

53. *Invites* Member States to develop national plans for the gradual adoption of the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes and to strengthen national statistical systems of criminal justice, requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its existing mandate, to continue to strengthen the regular collection, analysis and dissemination of accurate, reliable and comparable data and information, including, as appropriate, data disaggregated by sex, age and other relevant criteria, and strongly encourages Member States to share such data and information with the Office;

54. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to develop, in close cooperation with Member States, technical and methodological tools and trend analyses and studies to enhance knowledge of crime trends and support Member States in designing appropriate responses in specific areas of crime, in particular in their transnational dimension, taking into account the need to make the best possible use of existing resources;

55. *Encourages* Member States to take relevant measures, as appropriate to their national contexts, to ensure the diffusion, use and application of the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice, including the consideration and, where they deem it necessary, dissemination of existing manuals, handbooks and capacity-building material developed and published by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

56. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in collaboration and close consultation with Member States and within existing resources, to continue to support the enhancement of capacity and skills in the field of forensic sciences, including the setting of standards, and the development of technical assistance material for training, such as manuals, compilations of useful practices and guidelines and scientific and forensic reference material, for law enforcement officials and prosecution authorities, and to promote and facilitate the establishment and sustainability of regional networks of forensic science providers in order to enhance their expertise and capacity to prevent and combat transnational organized crime;

57. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session on the implementation of the mandates of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, reflecting also emerging policy issues and possible responses.

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[on the report of the Third Committee (A/72/441)]

72/197. Promoting the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development and related commitments on alternative development and regional, interregional and international cooperation on development-oriented, balanced drug control policy addressing socioeconomic issues

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming that drug policies and programmes, including in the field of development, should be undertaken in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[1] and, in particular, with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States, all human rights, fundamental freedoms, the inherent dignity of all individuals and the principles of equal rights and mutual respect among States, as well as the principle of common and shared responsibility and the Sustainable Development Goals,[2] and taking into account the specific situations of countries and regions,

Reaffirming also that the world drug problem must be addressed in accordance with the provisions of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,[3] the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971[4] and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,[5] which, together with other relevant international instruments, constitute the cornerstone of the international drug control system,

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[1] Resolution 217 A (III).
[2] See resolution 70/1.
[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.
[4] Ibid., vol. 1019, No. 14956.
[5] Ibid., vol. 1582, No. 27627.

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Reaffirming further the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session[6] and the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development,[7]

Reaffirming the commitments contained in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,[8] adopted at the high-level segment of the fifty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/182 of 18 December 2009, and the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, adopted at the high-level segment of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission,[9]

Reaffirming also the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem",[10] in its entirety, and reiterating that the operational recommendations contained therein are integrated, indivisible, multidisciplinary and mutually reinforcing and are aimed at a comprehensive, integrated and balanced approach to addressing and countering the world drug problem,

Reaffirming further its commitment to addressing drug-related socioeconomic issues related to the illicit cultivation of narcotic plants and the illicit manufacture and production of and trafficking in drugs through the implementation of long-term, comprehensive and sustainable development-oriented and balanced drug control policies and programmes, including alternative development and, as appropriate, preventive alternative development programmes, which are part of sustainable crop control strategies,

Recalling its resolution 68/196 of 18 December 2013, in which it adopted the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development and encouraged Member States, international organizations, international financial institutions, entities and other relevant stakeholders to take into account the Guiding Principles when designing and implementing alternative development programmes, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development programmes,

Considering the importance of taking into account the local know-how of all relevant stakeholders, including civil society, in the implementation of development projects,

Recalling Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolutions 52/6 of 20 March 2009,[5] 53/6 of 12 March 2010,[11] 54/4 of 25 March 2011,[12] 55/4 of 16 March 2012,[13] 57/1 of 21 March 2014[9] and 58/4 of 17 March 2015,[14]

Welcoming the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[1] and stressing that the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development should be aligned with the efforts to achieve those

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[6] Resolution S-20/2, annex.

[7] Resolution S-20/4 E.

[8] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8* (E/2009/28), chap. I, sect. C.

[9] Ibid., *2014, Supplement No. 8* (E/2014/28), chap. I, sect. C.

[10] Resolution S-30/1, annex.

[11] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2010, Supplement No. 8* (E/2010/28), chap. I, sect. C.

[12] Ibid., *2011, Supplement No. 8* (E/2011/28), chap. I, sect. C.

[13] Ibid., *2012, Supplement No. 8* (E/2012/28), chap. I, sect. B.

[14] Ibid., *2015, Supplement No. 8* (E/2015/28), chap. I, sect. C.

objectives within the Sustainable Development Goals that are related to the work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recognizing the efforts of Member States to promote the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development by organizing international seminars and workshops that draw on best practices, lessons learned and local wisdom in alternative development programmes, such as those discussed at the Second International Conference on Alternative Development,[9] which focused on enhancing individual and community resilience and recognized alternative development programmes as an example of the sufficiency economy philosophy of King Rama IX of Thailand,

Reaffirming that alternative development is an important, lawful, viable and sustainable alternative to the illicit cultivation of drug crops, that it is an effective measure to counter the world drug problem, including illicit drug-related activities, and that it is one of the key components of policies and programmes for reducing illicit drug production,

Expressing concern that the illicit cultivation of drug crops and illicit drug production, manufacture, distribution and trafficking remain major challenges in countering the world drug problem, and recognizing the need to strengthen sustainable crop control strategies that may include, inter alia, alternative development, eradication and law enforcement measures, for the purpose of preventing and significantly and measurably reducing the illicit cultivation of drug crops, and the need to intensify joint efforts at the national, regional and international levels in a more comprehensive manner, in accordance with the principle of common and shared responsibility, including by means of appropriate preventive tools and measures, enhanced and better-coordinated financial and technical assistance and action-oriented programmes, in order to tackle those challenges,

Noting with concern that overall financial support for alternative development projects and programmes, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development projects and programmes, has accounted for only a minor share of official development assistance and has reached only a minor percentage of communities and households involved in illicit drug crop cultivation at the global level,

1. *Urges* Member States, when designing alternative development interventions, to take into due consideration the section entitled "Operational recommendations on alternative development, regional, interregional and international cooperation on development-oriented balanced drug policy, addressing socioeconomic issues" of the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem",[10]

2. *Reiterates its commitment* to addressing drug-related socioeconomic issues related to the illicit cultivation of narcotic plants and the illicit manufacture and production of and trafficking in drugs through the implementation of long-term, comprehensive and sustainable development-oriented and balanced drug control policies and programmes, including alternative development and, as appropriate, preventive alternative development programmes, which are part of sustainable crop control strategies,

3. *Urges* Member States to strengthen regional and international cooperation to support sustainable alternative development programmes, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development, in close collaboration with all

[9] E/CN.7/2016/13, annex.

relevant stakeholders at the local, national and international levels, and to develop and share best practices towards implementing the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development,[16] taking into account all the lessons learned and good practices, in particular those of countries with extensive expertise in alternative development;

4. *Reaffirms* the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development, which highlight that alternative development, as an integral component of policies and programmes for reducing illicit drug production, is an important, viable and sustainable option for preventing, eliminating or significantly and measurably reducing the illicit cultivation of crops used for the production and manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances through tackling poverty and providing livelihood opportunities;

5. *Urges* Member States to consider strengthening the development perspective as part of comprehensive, integrated and balanced national drug policies and programmes so as to tackle the related causes and consequences of the illicit cultivation, manufacture and production of and trafficking in drugs by, inter alia, addressing risk factors affecting individuals, communities and society, which may include a lack of services, infrastructure needs, drug-related violence, exclusion, marginalization and social disintegration, in order to contribute to the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies;

6. *Also urges* Member States to consider elaborating and implementing comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programmes, including preventive alternative development programmes, as appropriate, that support sustainable crop control strategies to prevent and significantly, durably and measurably reduce illicit crop cultivation and other illicit drug-related activities, ensuring the empowerment, ownership and responsibility of affected local communities by taking into account their vulnerabilities and specific needs;

7. *Stresses* that, when designing and implementing comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programmes and projects, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development programmes and projects, the focus should be on empowering and encouraging ownership by local communities, including women, children and young people, taking into account their specific needs, and on strengthening local capacities, as ensuring the effective cooperation of all stakeholders in the entire alternative development process is crucial for the success of alternative development;

8. *Also stresses* that comprehensive and sustainable alternative development, as one of the tools available for tackling the world drug problem, increases the State's presence, builds trust between communities and government, strengthens local governance and institutions and promotes peaceful and inclusive societies, which, under Sustainable Development Goal 16,[2] includes the promotion of the rule of law;

9. *Encourages* further discussions on the relationship and potential links between alternative development and the promotion of the rule of law by individuals and communities, as well as on the wide range of challenges affecting the livelihoods and well-being of people, in order to further develop measures to address the root causes of such challenges;

10. *Encourages* Member States to ensure the proper and coordinated sequencing of development interventions when designing alternative development programmes;

[16] Resolution 68/196, annex.

11. *Also encourages* Member States to promote inclusive economic growth and support initiatives that contribute to poverty eradication and the sustainability of social and economic development, develop measures for rural development, improving infrastructure and social inclusion and protection and addressing the consequences of illicit crop cultivation and the manufacture and production of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for the environment, with the incorporation and participation of local communities, and consider taking voluntary measures to promote products stemming from alternative development, including preventive alternative development, as appropriate, to gain access to markets, consistent with applicable multilateral trade rules and national and international law, within the framework of comprehensive and balanced drug control strategies;

12. *Stresses* that access to productive land and land rights, such as legal titles to land for farmers and local communities, should be promoted and protected in the implementation of comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programmes, in a manner that is consistent with domestic law and regulations and with the full participation of and in consultation with local communities;

13. *Encourages* the development of strategies consistent with domestic legal frameworks, including the utilization of local expertise, capacity-building and entrepreneurship, to develop products through alternative development programmes identified on the basis of market demand and value added production chains, as well as secure and stable markets with fair prices for producers, in accordance with international trade rules, including the required infrastructure and a conducive environment, including roads, the establishment of farmer associations and the use of special marketing regimes, for example, those based on fair trade principles and commercialization of organic products;

14. *Encourages* the international community, including civil society, the scientific community and academia, to work with affected communities to develop recommendations focusing on specific alternative development strategies, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development strategies, that take into account demographic, cultural, social and geographical conditions and include ideas for supporting and promoting new products;

15. *Calls upon* Member States to apply the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development when designing, implementing and evaluating alternative development programmes and projects, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development programmes and projects, and calls upon Member States with experience in this area to share outcomes, assessments of implemented projects and lessons learned, thereby contributing to the dissemination and application of the Guiding Principles;

16. *Urges* Member States to sustain political will and a long-term commitment with regard to implementing alternative development programmes and strategies, and to continue to engage in awareness programmes and in dialogue and cooperation with all relevant stakeholders;

17. *Encourages* the development of viable economic alternatives, particularly for communities affected by or at risk of illicit cultivation of drug crops and other illicit drug-related activities in urban and rural areas, including through comprehensive alternative development programmes, and to this end encourages the consideration of development-oriented interventions, while ensuring that both men and women benefit equally from them, including through job opportunities, improved infrastructure and basic public services and, as appropriate, access and legal titles to land for farmers and local communities, which will also contribute to preventing, reducing or eliminating illicit cultivation and other drug-related activities;

18. *Urges* Member States to consider the development of sustainable urban development initiatives for those affected by illicit drug-related activities, to foster public participation in crime prevention, community cohesion, protection and safety and to stimulate innovation, entrepreneurship and employment;

19. *Urges* relevant international financial institutions, United Nations entities, non-governmental organizations and the private sector, as appropriate, to consider increasing their support, including through long-term and flexible funding, for the implementation of comprehensive and balanced development-oriented drug control programmes and viable economic alternatives, in particular alternative development programmes, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development programmes, based on identified needs and national priorities, for areas and populations affected by or vulnerable to the illicit cultivation of drug crops, with a view to its prevention, reduction and elimination, and encourages States, to the extent possible, to stay strongly committed to financing such programmes;

20. *Encourages* Member States to strengthen intragovernmental coordination when designing and implementing alternative development projects and programmes;

21. *Encourages* all relevant United Nations entities and specialized agencies to further increase their interaction with the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in order to support Member States in effectively implementing alternative development programmes, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development programmes, with a view to further enhancing coherence and coordination within the United Nations system;

22. *Encourages* development agencies, donors and financial institutions, the private sector, civil society and academia to share information, experiences and best practices, promote research and increase efforts relating to the promotion of alternative development, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development;

23. *Encourages* Member States to promote partnerships and innovative cooperation initiatives with the private sector, civil society and international financial institutions to create conditions more conducive to productive investments targeted at job creation in areas and among communities affected by or at risk of illicit drug cultivation, production, manufacturing, trafficking and other illicit drug-related activities, in order to prevent, reduce or eliminate those activities, and to share best practices, lessons learned, expertise and skills in this regard;

24. *Recognizes* that more research is needed to better understand and identify factors contributing to the emergence of illicit crop cultivation and to improve impact assessments of alternative development programmes;

25. *Reiterates* that, in addition to estimates of illicit cultivation and other illicit activities related to the world drug problem, indicators related to human development, socioeconomic conditions, rural development and the alleviation of poverty, as well as institutional and environmental indicators, should be used when assessing alternative development programmes, and, as appropriate, preventive alternative programmes, in order to ensure that the outcomes are in line with national and international development objectives, including the Sustainable Development Goals, and that they reflect accountable use of donor funds and truly benefit affected communities;

26. *Calls upon* Member States and other donors to consider providing long-term support to alternative development programmes and projects, including preventive alternative development programmes and projects, as appropriate, that

target the illicit cultivation of drug crops, in order to contribute to the sustainability of social and economic development and poverty eradication, including through enhanced development-oriented approaches that implement measures for rural development, strengthen local governments and institutions, improve infrastructure, including the provision of public services such as water supply, energy, health and education in areas acutely impacted by the illicit cultivation of drug crops, promote the participation of local communities, enhance the empowerment of people and strengthen the resilience of communities;

27. *Encourages* Member States to maintain and strengthen international, North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, in accordance with the operational recommendation contained in the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, to support comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programmes, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development programmes, as an essential part of successful crop control strategies, in order to increase the positive outcomes of such programmes, especially in areas affected by or at risk of the illicit cultivation of crops used for the production of narcotic drugs, taking into account the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development;

28. *Encourages* Member States with extensive expertise in alternative development, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development, to continue to share best practices upon request, promote research to better understand factors contributing to illicit crop cultivation and foster and strengthen international cooperation, including cross-continental, interregional, subregional and regional technical cooperation on integral and sustainable alternative development, which in some cases includes preventive alternative development;

29. *Recognizes* the importance of gender, social inclusion and cultural identity in the design and implementation of alternative development projects and programmes, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development programmes, and likewise also recognizes the importance of the participation of communities affected by illicit cultivation of crops in decision-making processes;

30. *Encourages* affected States and relevant development stakeholders to examine innovative ways to promote alternative development programmes, including, where appropriate, preventive alternative development programmes, that are environmentally friendly;

31. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the purposes described above, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.

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